Toronto metro

WEEKEND, APRIL 13-17, 2017

TOYOTA

RED TAG DAYS

AWD Limited model shown.
2017 RAV4

XSE model shown.
2017 COROLLA

ALL-IN LEASE | 2017 RAV4 FWD LE

$59† at 0% apr / $1,000 CUSTOMER INCENTIVE*

weekly for 39 months with $3,775 down payment and Customer Incentive applied. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.*

✓ Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection
✓ Lane Departure Alert ✓ Backup Camera
✓ 6.1" Touchscreen Display Audio with Bluetooth® Capability

ALL STANDARD

ALL-IN LEASE | 2017 COROLLA CE MANUAL

$35† at 0% apr / $1,500 CUSTOMER INCENTIVE*

weekly for 39 months with $1,700 down payment and Customer Incentive applied. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.*

✓ Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection
✓ Dynamic Radar Cruise Control ✓ Lane Departure Alert
✓ 6.1" Touchscreen Display Audio with Bluetooth® Capability

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TOYOTA

RED TAG DAYS

aeroplan

ALL-IN LEASE | 2017 CAMRY LE

$59† at 0% apr / $1,000 LEASE ASSIST▲

weekly for 39 months with $2,900 down payment and Lease Assist▲ applied. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

- ✓ 6.1" Touchscreen Display Audio System with Bluetooth®
- ✓ 10 Standard Airbags ✓ Backup Camera
- ✓ Air Conditioning

ALL STANDARD

XSE model shown.
2017 CAMRY

ALL-IN LEASE | 2017 SIENNA 7-PASSENGER V8

$95† at 1.99% apr

weekly for 39 months with $3,300 down payment. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

- ✓ Touchscreen Audio with Bluetooth® and SIRI Eyes Free
- ✓ Steering Wheel Audio and Voice Recognition Controls
- ✓ 3-Zone Automatic Climate Control
- ✓ Middle Row Captain's Chairs

ALL STANDARD

SE model shown.
2017 SIENNA

ALL-IN LEASE | 2017 HIGHLANDER FWD LE

$105† at 3.99% apr

weekly for 39 months with $3,550 down payment. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

- ✓ Automatic High Beam ✓ Lane Departure Alert
- ✓ Backup Camera ✓ Dynamic Radar Cruise Control
- ✓ 6.1" Touchscreen Display Audio System with Bluetooth,® Steering Wheel Controls and SIRI Eyes Free
- ✓ Pre-Collision System with Pedestrian Detection Function

ALL STANDARD

ALL-IN LEASE | 2017 TACOMA 4X4 ACCESS CAB SR+

$89† at 4.29% apr

weekly for 39 months with $3,275 down payment. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

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- ✓ Backup Camera ✓ Hill-Start Assist
- ✓ Keyless Entry
- ✓ Power Windows and Door Locks
- ✓ 6-speaker, 6.1" Touchscreen Audio with Bluetooth® Capability

ALL STANDARD

ALL-IN LEASE | 2017 TUNDRA 4X4 DOUBLE CAB 5.7L SR5+

$119† at 1.49% apr / 3.44% EFFECTIVE RATE^Δ

weekly for 39 months with $3,950 down payment. Includes freight and fees. HST extra.

- ✓ Heavy Duty Tow Package ✓ Fog Lamps
- ✓ Heated Front Seats ✓ Heavy Duty Tow Package
- ✓ 18" Aluminum Alloy Wheels ✓ Trailer Brake Controller
- ✓ 7" Audio Display with Voice Recognition, Bluetooth and USB Capability

ALL STANDARD

XLE AWD model shown.
2017 HIGHLANDER

4x4 Double Cab TRD Sport Package model shown.
2017 TACOMA

TRD Offroad model shown.
2017 TUNDRA

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TOYOTA

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Toronto metro

A Metro podcast
Vicky Mochama welcomes Daniel Dale on Friday to talk Trump, United Airlines and Malala
itsasafespace.com

Your essential daily news | WEEKEND, APRIL 13-17, 2017 | High 10°C/Low 3°C Partly cloudy

NO BIKE? OLD BIKE? BROKE BIKE? OUR METROGUIDE TO CYCLING WILL HAVE YOU READY FOR SPRING

metroNEWS

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

CHIMPS AND OTHER ANIMALS TORONTO WON'T ALLOW AS PETS

BUNNIES 5 THINGS TO DO FOR THE EASTER WEEKEND

& BABIES (OH MY) SCIENCE SAYS THEY MAY BE RACIST

LITTLE HOUSE. HUGE LEAFS FANS
metroNEWS

FOCUS ON FAMINE | Update: Somalia

'Kids are fighting over empty bottles'

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Weekend, April 13-17, 2017

Metro will not be publishing Good Friday or Easter Monday. We will return on April 18.

CODE RED: TORONTO'S HOUSING CRISIS

Rental construction slows

DEVELOPMENT

Speed of project approval, market uncertainty is to blame: Expert

May Warren
Metro | Toronto

In the middle of a housing affordability crisis new construction on purpose-built rentals has stalled, according to a new report from condo market research firm Urbanation.

Shaun Hildebrand, Urbanation's senior vice president, said there's been "a dramatic pull back in the construction starts of purpose built rentals beginning in 2016."

"If rental demand remains as strong as it has been I think we're going to fall back into a situation where supply's going to be in a severe shortage in that area," said Hildebrand.

Hildebrand said delays in "getting the green light from the city or the Ontario Municipal Board" to go ahead with projects are behind it. But more recently speculation and uncertainty about rent control may be causing "stalling" on the part of developers.

The provincial government has promised to expand rent control but it's not clear whether an exemption to rent control caps for all buildings built after 1991 will be changed.

"I don't necessarily think that rent control is going to cause a collapse in new rental development but it's going to cause developers to think twice," said Hildebrand.

Average condo rents in the GTA are also up 8 per cent since this time last year, not as much as the record breaking levels seen in late 2016. Hildebrand said he expects only "moderate" rent increases for the next couple of years as the market stabilizes.

Kemba Robinson, chair person for the York West chapter of Acorn, a community group that advocates for low and middle income people, said rents are continuing to climb and taking up more and more of working people's income. Robinson said rent increases are a problem even for buildings built before 1991, as landlords jack up rents to pay for capital repairs, known as 'above the guidelines' rent increases.

"Rent in Toronto is out of control," she said."We're not looking for stainless steel appliances, we're just looking for a decent place to live."

BY THE NUMBERS

$2.75

The price per square foot actually dropped to $2.75, from $2.80 in the fourth quarter of 2016.

$2,094

The average Toronto condo rent is now $2,094 for a 712 square foot unit.

8%

In the GTA the average condo rent went up 8 per cent, from $1,891 a year ago to $1,993.

The number of purpose-built units under construction fell to 5,290 units, down by 8 per cent or 455 units, from a year earlier.

5290

**The figures are based on condo rents for units listed on MLS.

Province to target speculation in effort to calm market

Real estate speculators — not ordinary buyers and sellers — will be a target of the province's efforts to calm the housing market, says Finance Minister Charles Sousa.

Signalling that the Liberal government would not take steps to stop bidding wars now taking place, he acknowledged they are leaving buyers frustrated.

People are angry that they can't win bidding wars, Sousa told reporters Wednesday at Queen's Park hours before Premier Kathleen Wynne huddled with Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area mayors and regional chairs to discuss housing affordability.

While Wynne was more temperate in her remarks to municipal leaders — including Toronto Mayor John Tory — she emphasized the province would be taking action with a suite of real estate and rental measures.

"Whether you're renting or whether you're looking to buy, the cost of housing is putting people in very precarious situations and it's stressful. There's a frenzy that's going on right now," the premier said, indicating the government would also help builders clear the hurdles needed to expedite construction of new homes.

Wynne noted only 20 per cent of the land set aside for new development in the province's 2006 growth plan for the region has been built on.

"What's going on there? What is it that's keeping that land from being developed? We have land — now we need to make it easier and quicker to build on if we're going to deal with the supply issue."

Bank of Canada governor Stephen Poloz in a speech Wednesday also blamed the rapid increase in house prices — as much as 33 per cent over the last 12 months — on speculators, warning that is not sustainable and that prices could fall from current levels.

Rents have also been soaring — with some condo tenants reporting steep increases. To help, Housing Minister Chris Ballard is suggesting rent controls could be expanded to include buildings constructed after 1991.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NEW natural ingredient produces 34% more hair in 8 months!

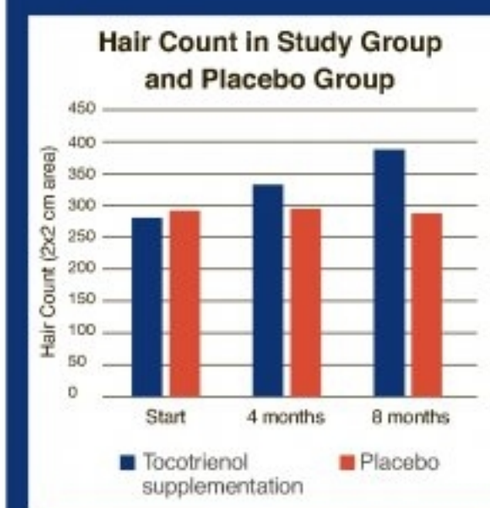
It is known that supplements can increase hair health and volume to some degree, but to find a supplement that can increase hair growth strongly is rare. Still, this is what scientist are finding when studying palm oil extracts.

A recent study was done at the University of Malaysia with 38 people suffering from hair loss (alopecia)*. They were told to take a palm oil extract containing a special ratio of "super-antioxidants" called tocotrienols, known to lower oxidation in the scalp and thus allow for better – and new - hair growth. The results were surprisingly good!

In Canada, this complex of tocotrienols is now available in the Health Canada licensed product called Hair Gro™ from New Nordic. Hair Gro is available now at participating pharmacies and health food stores. For more information or to purchase directly, please visit our website or call: 1-877-696-6734.

STUDY RESULT:

Researchers studied an area of the scalp equal to 2x2 cm and counted the hairs at the beginning of the study, at 4 months and at 8 months. At the end of the study, the participants on the tocotrienol supplement had gained 34.5% more hair or an increase in average hair count from 285 to 383 hairs. Most of the group showed increases of 10-25%, but 40% of the group had more than 50% increase in hair growth. And only one person did not have any results.



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*Tropical Life Sciences Research 2010 "Effects of Tocotrienol Supplementation on Hair Growth in Human Volunteers"Beoy, Woei et Hay, University Sains Malaysia. To make sure this product is right for you, always read the label and follow the instructions.

FOCUS ON FAMINE — Update: Somalia

'Kids are fighting over empty bottles'

APPEAL

Canadian team staying longer to try to avert growing crisis

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Mahmood Qasim, left, is in northern Somalia to oversee projects to distribute food and water supplies to people facing famine. CONTRIBUTED

The magnitude of drought caught Mahmood Qasim and his team off guard when they landed in Somaliland (northern Somalia) last Friday.

The heat is unbearably extreme, with daytime temperature hovering around 40 C. Thousands of displaced families leave their dead livestock behind and travel hundreds of kilometres on foot to reach makeshift camps, where it's easier for aid organizations to distribute food and water. Desperate children line up on roads hoping for passersby to throw anything at them to eat.

"Kids are fighting over empty bottles, trying to squeeze out the last drop of water," said Qasim from Mississauga, speaking to Metro this week from Ainabo, Somaliland.

As a member of the Islamic Relief Canada, Qasim travelled with some members of the Somali Canadian Task Force on Famine Prevention in Somalia — one of the four countries facing a famine outbreak according to the United Nations.

Metro has chronicled the ongoing food insecurity in Somalia, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. Efforts by immigrants from affected countries have sprung up across the country to raise funds for people in need of immediate assistance. The Islamic Relief Canada has committed to raising $1.2 million for Somalia. They've collected over $300,000 so far.

The situation is so dire Qasim and his team had to delay their return time in an effort to reach more affected regions. About 600 households in Ainabo received food and water supplies on Monday. Another 400 displaced families in Waridaad got supplies Wednesday, while plans are underway to visit Bohotle camps near Ethiopia. Even then, Qasim knows their efforts aren't enough to avert the crisis he's witnessing.

"It's not even close," he said. "This is going to become a major crisis if nothing is done to stop it."

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Somali-Canadians across the country and many other NGOs are leading efforts to assist those affected by famine in Somalia:

- **Somali Canadian Task Force on Famine Prevention in Somalia:** Formed last month as a response to the ongoing famine, the group has raised over $300,000 through Islamic Relief Canada. More info at islamicreliefcanada.org
- **Horn of Africa Development Assistance:** The Ottawa-based non-profit runs development projects in Somalia aimed at fighting poverty and building capacity. To get involved or donate, visit hada.ca

The MVP Study: MRI vs. PSA Prostate Cancer Screening Trial

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If you are interested, please contact us for further details.

For more information Contact: Patrick MacInnis
patrick.macinnis@sunnybrook.ca | 416.480.6100 ext.7504

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happy bay days

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Deck the house in hues of blue

2017 NHL PLAYOFFS
MAPLE LEAFS FANS

Couple Leaf no surface uncovered as series begins

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

You can tell if the Leafs are in the playoffs just by looking at the Adamson house.

Michael and Sara, both teachers, go all out to decorate their semi-detached home at Bayview and Merton whenever the team makes the postseason.

There's jerseys, an engraved Muskoka chair, lots of miniature Maple Leafs flags and more — 102 items overall.

Granted, they haven't had many opportunities for hockey Halloween in recent years, but that just means there's pent-up excitement.

"After a few years, we're ready for this," Michael said.

Sara and Michael have been married for 19 years, and their Leafs discussions go back to their first date, when Michael was impressed by her knowledge of the team.

When the Leafs last made the playoffs in 2013, the couple took their decorations to the next level. "The response was great," Michael said. Sara insisted they do it again, and they've added a few more items since last time.

Ever since the decorations went up a couple days ago, cars have been honking as they drive by, fans have been chanting "Go Leafs Go" and passers-by have been taking selfies.

"All the neighbours have been amazing," said Michael, who added that he's met a lot of people through their festivities.

While he's "not foolish enough to think they'll win the Stanley Cup," he's going to enjoy the run.

On Thursday night, he and Sara will watch the game with friends in the kitchen and hope that when it's over more fans will chant "Go Leafs Go" outside his house.

Sara and Michael Adamson in their Maple Leafs-themed front yard at Bayview and Merton. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

We are looking for volunteers!

Lambda Therapeutic Research Inc specializes in conducting clinical research trials. We are looking for healthy non-smoking individuals to participate in upcoming studies. Participants are compensated for their time. Compensation may range from $750 to $3500 depending on study duration. Refer a friend and you may receive $100!

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Cheesecake Factory coming

Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

The joint has famously been name-dropped by Drake, so it was inevitable that The Cheesecake Factory would set up shop in his hometown.

The American restaurant chain, which you may be surprised to learn is famous for its cheesecake, has announced plans to open its first Canadian eatery in the space recently vacated by Milestone's at the Yorkdale Shopping Centre.

The Cheesecake Factory is due to open its first Canadian location at Yorkdale Mall in the fall. CONTRIBUTED

"For nearly 40 years, The Cheesecake Factory has been known for creating delicious, memorable experiences for tens of thousands of Canadians visiting the U.S.," said CEO David Overton. "We are now delighted to be expanding into Canada."

The company says the 10,400-square-foot Yorkdale location will be equipped with two covered patios to allow for all-season indulgences chosen from a menu that's identical to the chain's existing restaurants in the U.S.

The Cheesecake Factory currently operates more than 200 restaurants in the U.S., as well as several others in the Middle East, Asia and Mexico.

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BEST MANAGED COMPANIES PLATINUM MEMBER

No room for these pet peeves

You probably didn't know how many creatures are banned as pets under Toronto's bylaws, but Metro had a look.

MAY WARREN METRO

Ostriches

Don't go hiding your head in the sand over this one. These birds, like other species on the list, are not allowed in the interest of public safety and their own wellbeing.

Lions, tigers and bears, oh my

All banned. No monkeys or chimpanzees either. Sorry, Ikea Monkey mom.

Bats

This includes fruit bats and flying foxes. There's a $240 fine for keeping them as pets, like all the creatures on the banned list.

Marsupials

Kangaroos, opossums and wallabies are strictly against the rules. However "sugar gliders derived from self-sustaining captive populations" are permissible.

Farm animals

You are not Old MacDonald, which means no cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, horses, donkeys and jackasses.

Crocodylia

No alligators, crocodiles or caimans. Remember the little one found in a High Park pond in 2014? Definitely not allowed in the bathtub.

SCIENCE

Six-month-old babies can be racist — sort of

How embarrassing: You're out in with your preschooler, who blurts out something racsit they picked up from daycare or TV.

Most parents start being extra careful not to expose children to negative racial attitudes at the age when they begin to notice that kind of thing which, until recently, was thought to be about three or four years old.

But according to a new study published in the journal Child Development, babies as young as six months old can be racist, too — just in a different way.

Tiny tots tend to react positively to adults of their own ethnicity and negatively to others, said U of T psychologist Kang Lee, lead author of the study. Researchers believe it's simple familiarity: Most babies rarely see adults of any ethnicity other than their own. Lee's study found when happy music was played, babies spent more time looking at faces of people of their own race, and looked longer at other-race faces when scary music was played.

In a separate task, babies looked at videos of adults — some of their own race, some from a different group. Adults instructed the babies to look at an area of the screen where an animal might or might not appear. Some of the adults were trustworthy — they pointed, and the animal appeared. Others were only right one half or one quarter of the time.

Happily, if your baby is racist, you can do something about it.

"The critical thing is exposure to other-race individuals," Lee said. Even choosing baby books with characters of many cultures and ethnicities can help – just steer clear of titles that dwell unnecessarily on racial categories, especially as your child gets older.

"To increase racial harmony, we use labels," Lee said. "This is the worst thing you can do."

GENNA BUCK/METRO

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Meet Pride's new exec

Q&A

Olivia Nuamah on the past, present and future of event

David Hains
Metro | Toronto

Olivia Nuamah has one of the most difficult jobs in the city.

She has been the executive director of Pride Toronto for only two months. In seven weeks the organization — supported mostly by volunteers and a small staff — will kick off Pride Month.

This would be a daunting task on its own, but Pride also works with community groups, sponsors and city council, and these organizations frequently have different ideas of what Pride should look like. We spoke with Nuamah about her Pride origin story, the role of politics in the parade and what she hopes to see next.

On what it feels like to take on the new job:

"I'm feeling a mixture of confidence and a slight sense of nervousness."

Pride Toronto's new executive director Olivia Nuamah.
LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

On her first Pride experiences:

Going to Jarvis Collegiate in downtown Toronto, she couldn't avoid Pride when the school year would wind down. But it provided a way for her to enter the local nightlife, which was a formative experience.

"The gay nightclub scene was a way for me ... to explore what my identity might look and feel like."

On the perspective she brings to Pride:

Pride is sometimes criticized for being too white and male and that it fails to represent the diversity of the LGBTQ community. Nuamah hopes to change that.

"That means not being afraid to have conversations at the intersections of queer identity."

She added that one of the best pieces of advice she received for the job was to "be authentic," and by doing so, she'll be in a better place to understand the voices of Pride's membership.

On where she sees Pride in a few years:

PRIDE 2017

The theme for Toronto 2017 Pride Month will be "+," the first time a symbol has been chosen.

The plus sign is meant to show that Pride means many things to many people and is "additive," according to a statement from Pride Toronto. Executive director Olivia Nuamah wrote that "this is the year to celebrate what we each add to Pride — about how our community is no one thing, and no one way, but instead is multifaceted."

Nuamah thinks Pride does a lot of things well, but one of her priorities is to hear from people who might not see themselves reflected right now.

"It doesn't really look any different from what happens now. It is a community-focused and -driven event founded on a platform of volunteers who care about the quality of the event. It represents community in a way that queer communities of colour value."

LONG WEEKEND

Six family-friendly Easter activities...

There is fun for everyone this Easter long weekend. Get out of the house and enjoy these secular events for the whole family.

Toronto's Largest Easter Egg Hunt
The Centreville Amusement Park and Far Enough Farm is bringing back the Easter EGGstravaganza.
Centreville Amusement Park
April 14 to 16, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Toronto Beaches Easter Parade
The annual Beaches Lions Club Easter Parade has grown into an event the whole city enjoys. Queen Street East from Munro Park Avenue to Woodbine Avenue, April 16, 2 p.m

Tasty Tours Easter Events
Tasty Tours is offering three delicious ways to celebrate Easter this year. Whether you choose the Easter Sweets Tour through Kensington Market, the Easter Chocolate Tour with samplings of the best eateries in town followed by a demonstration by an award winning chocolatier, or the Easter Chocolate Workshop hosted by Odile Chocolat, it'll be a sweet treat.

Bellwoods Flea Easter Edition
Stop by May on Dundas West for Toronto's best in art, food, beauty care, clothing & fashion, home decor, jewelry, vintage, and much more.
May, 876 Dundas St. West
April 15. 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

TIFF Kids International Film Festival
TIFF Kids, a film festival for kids aged 3 to 13, celebrates its 20th anniversary. Enjoy the largest programme to date, including a diverse selection featuring over 160 films from over 40 countries, and plenty of off-screen fun and special events planned to encourage children to express their creativity.
TIFF Bell Lightbox
April 7-23

Drop-In Clay Class
The Gardiner Museum is holding special drop-in classes this Easter weekend where a professional ceramic artist helps guide you through the process.
Gardiner Museum, 111 Queen's Park
April 14, 6 to 8 p.m. and April 16, from 1 to 3 p.m.
ALI VANDERKRUYK/METRO

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Downtown relief line subway on the move

TRANSIT

City now recommending Carlaw route instead of Pape

The proposed subway is still unfunded. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

After pushback from Pape Avenue residents, the city is now recommending the downtown relief line run beneath Carlaw Avenue, south of Gerrard, a route lined with mid-rise condo buildings rather than houses.

Staff had previously recommended the preferred alignment for the subway run south from Danforth Avenue beneath Pape, and turn west just south of Queen Street East.

But some of the estimated 1,100 residents living in single-family houses on Pape, between Gerrard and Queen, signed petitions asking staff to revisit the proposed route and consider Carlaw instead.

Carlaw, two streets west of Pape, is a minor arterial road with mid-rise residential and retail offices and an estimated population of about 2,500, according to 2016 census data. There is also a surface transit route on Carlaw.

Coun. Paula Fletcher, who represents the area in Leslieville, asked staff to revisit the alignment. Last July, council agreed to spend up to $520,000 to allow further study. The staff report will go to Mayor John Tory's executive committee this spring.

On Wednesday, Tory joined Fletcher on Queen Street East, at Carlaw, the site of a potential TTC subway station, to repeat the mayor's call for funding to actually make the proposed $6.8 billion subway line a reality.

The proposed subway line would connect downtown Toronto to the Bloor-Danforth subway, east of the Don River, which would help address the crush of crowds on the Yonge Street line.

Staff are working on planning and design work for the project, Tory said.

"Once that work is complete we can't put shovels in the ground until we have the money." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto DIGEST

City worker mourned
Scarborough's Cliffside neighbourhood residents are holding a memorial Thursday to mourn the loss of a city garbage collector, known for her infectious smile, who died after falling off the back of a moving garbage truck last week.

Diane Chicoine, 59, was standing on the rear passenger side of the truck April 6 when she suffered a medical issue and fell off, Toronto police said.

Courts underwater
With nearly one-third of the courts underwater, beach volleyball officials at Ashbridge's Bay are monitoring whether they need to make changes to their program which starts the first week of May.

"We're going to do a site visit as well, get a look at the courts and go from there," said Josh Nichol, interim beach manager of the Ontario Volleyball Association.

CIBC relocates
CIBC is moving its headquarters further down Bay Street into two massive office towers that the bank says will transform Toronto's skyline over the next six years.

The bank, whose headquarters are currently in Commerce Court at Bay and King streets, will become the anchor tenant of the Bay Park Centre development adjacent to Union Station and Air Canada Centre.

Lamb on the lam finds new home
A young lamb has been shepherded to a new home, two months after she was found on Highway 401, near the Guelph line.

The lamb, named Anna, is now on a farm with another orphan lamb, said Megan Swan, Animal Protection Officer at the Guelph Humane Society.

Orphan cats get purr-sonal beds from Ikea
Orphan cats will now have more purr-sonal space after a donation of 10 doll beds and $300 from Ikea to the Etobicoke Humane Society.

In a video uploaded Tuesday, the cats at the shelter are seen curiously investigating and catnapping on the mini beds that were donated by Ikea's Etobicoke location. Just a day after its upload on Facebook, the video surpassed 20,000 views.

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Island quad bikes ride again

ENTREPRENEURS

Family rental stand will be back this year after reprieve

Sarah-Joyce Battersby
Metro | Toronto

The liquidation of the Toronto Islands iconic quad bikes has been called off.

The family that operated the rental stand for 32 years, and first brought the bikes to the island, will be running the operation this summer after all.

The Rao family and their business partner Gordon Chhor were expecting to run the rental stand for another summer up until last week when they got word from the city that they were outbid for the contract this round.

But they announced on Wednesday that the new bidder had withdrawn from the process and the city was recommending their bid.

"We are overjoyed with this turn of events and extend our sincere gratitude for all the kind words and lovely memories you have shared with us," wrote Priya Rao on Facebook.

"It is with sheer happiness that we say we look forward to seeing you on the Island!"

There is one snag: they had already started selling off their stock. The fleet is down to a handful of quads, Rao told Metro.

They still plan to open for May 1 with a full fleet of singles and tandems, but Rao admits it may take a few weeks to rebuild their two- and four-seater quads.

"We're just on the ride right now and trying to deal with every situation as it comes."

Nathalie Pulla Abasto poses with a bike she's building at a workshop run by Charlie's Freewheels. TORSTAR FILE

Get wheel(s)

Spring is in the air — but is there air in your bike tires?

For many Torontonians, warm weather is a signal to shine up fenders and hit the streets on a bicycle. But what if you don't have a bike or your ride needs some repair?

Luckily it's also the time when bike shops are getting into gear and community bike swaps and repair spaces are rolling out the grease-stained welcome mat.

These are just a few of the options (and they're affordable.)

1 WHERE TO BUY

Bateman's Bicycle Company's swap: April 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; April 23, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.; 913 and 960 Bathurst St.
A range of new and used bikes will be on offer at the annual sale and swap. You can prearrange to sell a used bike on consignment and pick up a new or used one at the weekend-long sale. The prices are fixed ahead of time and the good deals go quickly, so staff recommend to get there early.
batemansbikeco.com

Ride Away Bikes, 778 Dundas St. W.
Open seven days a week, the shop keeps about 40 used bikes (starting at $150) in stock alongside new options. Manager Justin Brady recommends coming on a Thursday or Friday to beat the weekend rush.

My Little Bike Shop, 882 College St.
Come for shop owner Cam Zalewski's straightforward and affordable maintenance repairs and linger over the vast collection of vintage and refurbished bikes and parts.

2 WHERE TO FIX

Charlie's FreeWheels: Youth (12-25) can build a bike from scratch under the tutelage of volunteers at this spot on 242.5 Queen St. E. They're hosting a used bikes and parts swap April 21.

Bike Pirates: The DIY bike shop at 1416 Queen St. W. offers workshop space, recycled parts and volunteer mechanics to guide in repairs, maintenance or building a bike from scratch. bikepirates.com

Cycle Toronto: is running a basic bike maintenance workshop on April 25, 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 766 College St.

Velotique: The east-side bike shop (1592 Queen St. E.) is offering free basic repair classes for women-identified cyclists. Classes start this Sunday and run until August. velotique.com

3 WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Justin Brady from Ride Away Bikes offers these tips:

- Make sure it's the right size and fits comfortably
- Choose a style you like
- Take a test ride: shift through all the gears and try the brakes
- Check the bottom bracket (the piece that holds the chain ring and the pedal cranks). If it shakes side-to-side, it could signal a big problem.
- Make sure the seat is adjustable. If it's stuck in the frame that can be a costly, or impossible, to repair.

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‘What will a blind guy tell NASA?’

LITERATURE

Vancouver writer invited to tell his story to space agency

David P. Ball
Metro | Vancouver

Ryan Knighton is a blind travel writer and author of Cockeyed — a memoir about his experience of becoming blind as an adult. JEN ST. DENIS/METRO

Ryan Knighton, a creative writing instructor at North Vancouver's Capilano University, truly never expected being enlisted by NASA.

But the travel writer and author of Cockeyed — a memoir about his experience of becoming blind as an adult — is headed to Florida to speak before the space agency next Tuesday.

“It struck me as incredibly funny,” he told Metro, laughing. “Like, what is a blind guy from Canada going to tell NASA?!”

“I have nothing to do with space.”

The invitation to lecture to researchers and other staff at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center came about thanks to his 2012 appearance on podcast This American Life.

On the episode, Knighton recounted a distinctly North Vancouver experience: nearly having a run-in with a bear on campus. Except he was a blind man carrying his young daughter on his back. (It turned out she was yelling “Bear!” about a teddy bear she’d dropped.)

“It was a story ultimately about being a blind dad raising my daughter, and she had to learn that I couldn't see,” he recalled. “It’s an interesting moment learning the consciousness of another person — imagining the world from another point of view.”

The organizer of Goddard’s leadership colloquium speaker series told him there was no need to relate his talk to space, science or exploration in any way. They were particularly interested in the importance of workplace diversity.

“Just do what you do,” he said the NASA staffer told him. “You don’t need to try to speak to the space-like people.”

She even sent him a detailed breakdown of Goddard’s own demographics, and he was surprised that 7 per cent of employees identified as disabled. He decided he’d share his ideas on different “points of view.”

“We typically think of diversity issues in the workplace as accommodation — how to accommodate people with physical differences and other very practical concerns — but we don’t want to erase the differences of points of view,” he said. “In some ways, the friction of differences is where a lot of interesting stuff happens.”

As a frequent travel writer, he explained, his unique point of view as a blind man means that run-of-the-mill vacations can turn into wondrous, thrilling or terrifying adventures. The East Vancouver resident was recently sent by a magazine on a safari in Zimbabwe, where he ended up walking through the bush — “the scariest thing I’ve ever done” — and hearing one of the “rarest sounds on the planet,” a brawl between a pack of hyenas and a pack of African wild dogs.

“It sounded like an alien war,” he quipped.

Other speakers in the Goddard Exploring Leadership colloquia series include a thinker on gender and technology, a symphony conductor, and an IMAX cinematographer.

WILDLIFE

Beaver beats the odds

A wandering beaver shut down part of a highway in southern Ontario on Wednesday as police worked to get the animal back to its natural habitat.

Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Kerry Schmidt says the beaver was spotted sitting on a storm drain against a concrete dividing barrier on Highway 7/8 in Cambridge, Ont.

Schmidt says officers blocked part of the highway and tried to shoo the animal across the road to the ditch.

But he says the beaver was having nothing of it and refused to move from the left side of the highway.

He says police had an officer stay with the beaver to ensure it was OK and called in wildlife control.

Schmidt says wildlife control was able to capture the beaver and bring him back home.

“No one got hurt, and everybody’s happy,” Schmidt said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Malala's nudge to Canada's Parliament

PARLIAMENT HILL

Teen activist an honourary citizen, asks country to lead

The irrepressible Malala Yousafzai, the teenage Nobel Peace Prize winner who survived a Taliban bullet in 2012, delivered an enduring message of hope, perseverance and inspiration Wednesday — and did it as an honorary Canadian citizen.

Yousafzai used her newfound membership in the Canadian family and towering presence on Parliament Hill to apply a little friendly pressure, calling on the country to go beyond honorifics and take a global lead in ensuring more girls can go to school.

"I know where I stand," Yousafzai said during a moving speech to a joint session of Parliament that was punctuated frequently by thunderous standing ovations. "If you stand with me, I ask you to seize every opportunity for girls' education over the next year."

Malala Yousafzai is presented with an honorary Canadian citizenship by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 19-year-old called on Canada to make girls' education the centrepiece of its work as host of the G7 next year something that would bring full circle the process of how the Pakistani activist became Canada's sixth honorary citizen.

The accolade was originally to be conferred by former Conservative prime minister Stephen Harper, whose inner circle thought honouring Yousafzai would be a logical offshoot of their government's focus on women and girls' health when Canada last led the G7.

She was to have received the honour on Oct. 22, 2014, but on that day a gunman rampaged through the very building where Yousafzai stood Wednesday.

Malala sang Canada's praises throughout her speech.

"'Welcome to Canada' is more than a headline or a hashtag," she said. "It is the spirit of humanity that every single one of us would yearn for, if our family was in crisis. I pray that you continue to open your homes and your hearts to the world's most defenceless children and families — and I hope your neighbours will follow your example."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TERROR

Troops kill Abu Sayyaf militant in Philippines

Philippine troops battling militants in a central province have killed a key Abu Sayyaf commander who had been blamed for the beheadings of two Canadian hostages in 2016.

The Philippines military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano told The Associated Press that troops have recovered and identified the remains of Moammar Askali, who used the nom de guerre Abu Rami, in the scene of the battle in a far-flung coastal village on Bohol island.

Five other Abu Sayyaf gunmen were killed in the fighting on Tuesday, along with four soldiers and policemen.

Askali was blamed for the kidnappings of John Ridsdel and Robert Hall in September 2015. The Canadians had been taken from a marina by Abu Sayyaf gunmen along with a Norwegian man, Kjartan Sekkingstad, and Hall's Filipino girlfriend, Marites Flor.

The militant group demanded a ransom, which Canada refused to pay, and both Canadian men were beheaded.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FLORIDA

Renowned Canadian AIDS researcher drowns

A renowned HIV/AIDS researcher from Montreal has died in Florida.

Police in Bal Harbour, Fla., say Mark Wainberg drowned Tuesday afternoon while swimming with his son. They say officers were called on reports of a person struggling in the water around 2:40 p.m. Wainberg's son was able to pull his father back to shore, where officers administered CPR. Wainberg, who was in his early 70s, was pronounced dead in hospital.

Linda Farha, president of the Farha Foundation, a major Montreal-based HIV/AIDS research fundraising organization, said Wainberg was "enormous" in his field.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ties with Russia may be at an 'all-time low'

DIPLOMACY

Putin-praising appears to be a thing of the past for Trump

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson following their talks in Moscow on Wednesday.
IVAN SEKRETAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Laying bare deep and dangerous divisions on Syria and other issues, President Donald Trump declared Wednesday that U.S. relations with Russia "may be at an all-time low." His top diplomat offered a similarly grim assessment from the other side of the globe after meeting with Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

"Right now we're not getting along with Russia at all," Trump said flatly during a White House news conference. It was stark evidence that the president is moving ever further from his campaign promises to establish better ties with Moscow.

Only weeks ago, it appeared that Trump, who praised Putin throughout the U.S. election campaign, was poised for a potentially historic rapprochement with Russia. But any such expectations have crashed into reality amid the nasty back-and-forth over Syria and ongoing U.S. investigations into Russia's alleged interference in America's U.S. presidential election.

"It'd be a fantastic thing if we got along with Putin and if we got along with Russia," Trump said. But he clearly wasn't counting on it.

"That could happen, and it may not happen," he said. "It may be just the opposite."

Not long before Trump spoke in Washington, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson struck a similar tone after an almost two-hour meeting with Putin, saying the two countries had reached a "low point" in relations.

Trump, who last week ordered airstrikes on a Syrian air base in retaliation for a chemical weapons attack, was asked Wednesday if Syria could have launched the attack without Russia's knowledge. Trump said it was "certainly possible" though "probably unlikely."

The newly hardened view of Moscow comes as the president has tried to shake suspicions about the motives behind his campaign calls for warmer relations. As the FBI and multiple congressional committees investigate possible collusion between Russia and Trump's campaign, the president and his aides can now point to his hard-line stance on Assad as evidence he's willing to stand up to Putin.

More than 80 people were killed in what the U.S. has described as a nerve gas attack that Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces undoubtedly carried out. Russia says rebels were responsible for whatever chemical agent was used, which the Trump administration calls a disinformation campaign.

Not long before Trump spoke, Russia vetoed a Western-backed UN resolution that would have condemned the chemical weapons attack and demanded a speedy investigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHITE HOUSE

Hitler comment 'inexcusable'

White House press secretary Sean Spicer said Wednesday that his attempt to compare the Holocaust and Syrian President Bashar Assad's use of chemical weapons was "inexcusable and reprehensible" and was made all the worse by this being a holy week for Christians and Jews.

He said the comment, made Tuesday at the White House briefing, was personally and professionally disappointing, and he asked for "folks' forgiveness."

"To make a gaffe and a mistake like this is inexcusable and reprehensible," Spicer said during a previously scheduled appearance at a forum on the presidency and the press sponsored by the Newseum. Christians are preparing for Easter on Sunday, and Jews are celebrating Passover.

Sean Spicer THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"It really is painful to myself to know that I did something like that," Spicer said. "That obviously was not my intention. To know when you screw up that you possibly offended a lot of people … I would ask obviously for folks' forgiveness to understand that I should not have tried to make a comparison."

It was Spicer's second apology in as many days, following an initial mea culpa Tuesday during an interview with CNN.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travellers check in at the United Airlines Premier Access at O'Hare International Airport on Wednesday in Chicago, Illinois. United has been criticized in recent days after airport police officers dragged Dr. David Dao from his seat and off the airplane. GETTY IMAGES

'This will never happen again'

UNITED AIRLINES FIASCO

Executive says police will no longer be called in such cases

The chief executive of United Airlines said the carrier will no longer ask police to remove passengers from full flights after the uproar over a man who was dragged off a plane by airport officers in Chicago.

In an interview with ABC's "Good Morning America" aired Wednesday, Oscar Munoz said he felt "ashamed" watching video of the man being forced off the jet. He has promised to review the airline's passenger-removal policy.

Munoz, who leads United's parent company, apologized again to Kentucky physician David Dao, his family and the other passengers who witnessed him being taken off the flight.

"That is not who our family at United is," he said. "This will never happen again on a United flight. That's my promise."

In the future, law enforcement will not be involved in removing a "booked, paid, seated passenger," Munoz said.

Also Wednesday, a Chicago alderman said representatives from United and the city's Aviation Department have been summoned before a city council committee to answer questions about the confrontation at O'Hare Airport.

COMPENSATION

United says it is offering compensation to all passengers on the flight from which a man was dragged off by police.

Alderman Mike Zalewski said he did not know who will represent the airline before the Aviation Committee, but Munoz has been notified of the hearing.

Chicago Aviation Commissioner Ginger Evans will also speak.

Munoz called the embarrassment a "system failure" and said United would reassess its procedures for seeking volunteers to give up their seats when a flight is full. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Law-enforcement experts unpack officers' mistakes

Airport police officers called to remove a passenger who refused to leave a United Express flight essentially walked into what law-enforcement experts say was a no-win situation: enforcing a business decision by a private company.

But if the passenger posed no threat and was not being disruptive, officers almost certainly could have tried an approach other than dragging him out of his seat and down the aisle, including simply telling the airline to resolve the situation itself, experts said.

"Police have an innate bias for action, but there are times that it's not in their best interest or that of their agency to get involved in an issue that requires you to use a high level of force," said Jim Bueermann, president of the Police Foundation, a Washington D.C.-based research group, and former police chief in Redlands, Calif.

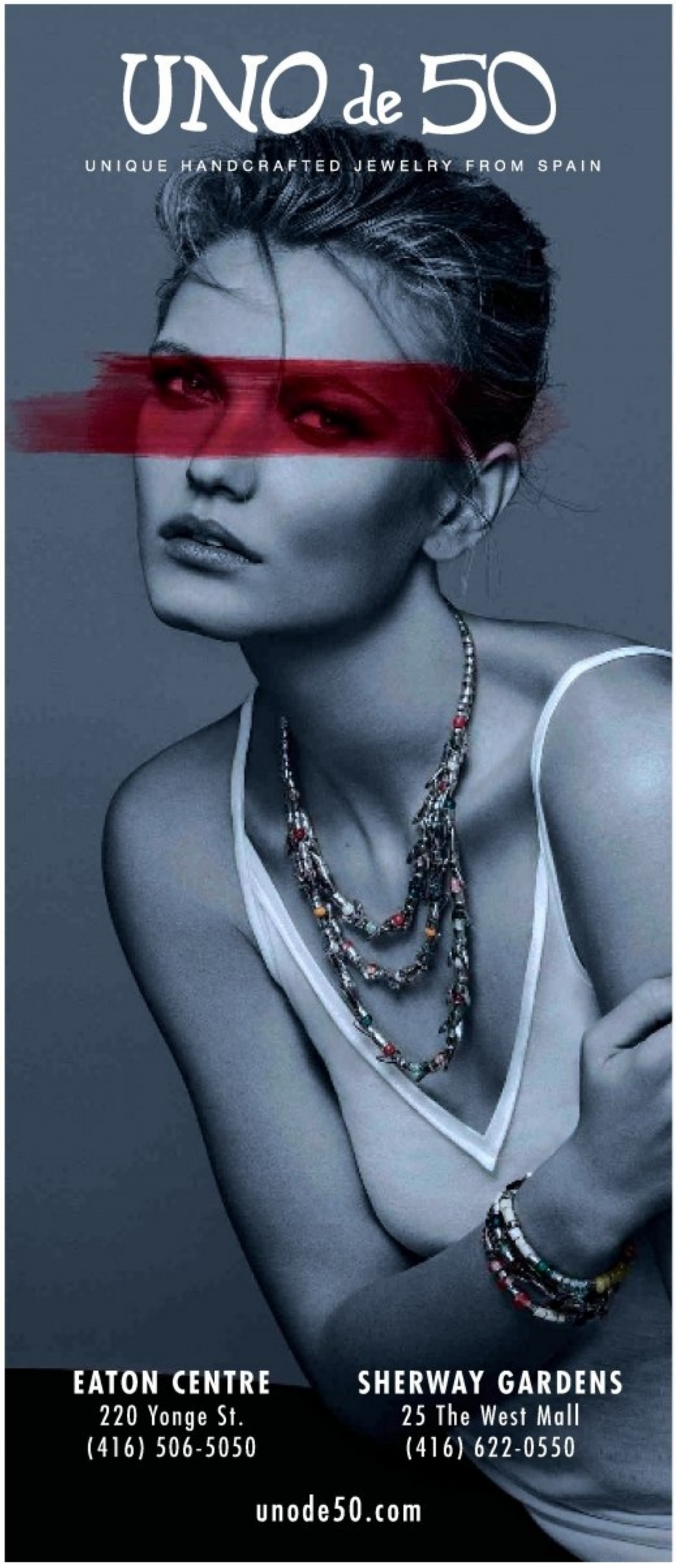
"You have to ask whether ... you really needed to use force when doing the airline's bidding."

But once police were aboard the plane, it would have been difficult to walk away, especially if they did not know why the passenger was asked to leave, said Kevin Murphy, executive director of the Airport Law Enforcement Agencies Network.

"Once you're there, it becomes tough to disengage. You have an obligation," Murphy said.

But police officers should try to find out what they are going into and to defuse the situation, if possible, experts said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Churches under heavy guard

TERRORISM

Egypt beefs up security ahead of Easter after terror attacks

Outside of Cairo's St. Mark's Cathedral, the seat of the Coptic Orthodox Pope, a dozen high-ranking police officers are stationed on all entrances, searching cars and scanning the area, as security measures are visibly beefed up outside churches before Easter prayers on Sunday.

The usually festive occasion is tainted with fearful apprehension after twin bombings in the cities of Tanta and Alexandria killed 45 Coptic Christians this week on Palm Sunday, which marks the start of the Coptic Holy Week.

The increased security measures on display outside churches across the country are meant to restore a sense of security for Egypt's Copts amid a war on the embattled minority declared by the Islamist State group, which claimed Sunday's bombings. However, the enhanced security can do little against the effect of repeated attacks on Coptic churches in recent years.

"No security measure can stop a suicide bomber with jihadist beliefs from blowing up a church," Coptic engineer Emad Thomas told The Associated Press on Wednesday. However, he believes that Copts will still attend prayers on Sunday. "Egypt's Copts put their trust in God and not in security measures," he said.

Egypt's Ministry of Interior announced on Wednesday the identity of the Alexandria church bomber, saying he belongs to the same terrorist cell that carried out the December bombing of a chapel adjacent to Egypt's main cathedral. The suicide bomber was identified as Mahmoud Hassan Mubarak Abdallah, a 30-year-old worker at a petroleum company. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian tourists wave their country's national flag during a gathering in Bethlehem on April 10 in solidarity with the victims of the twin church bombings. GETTY IMAGES

KANSAS

Chemical cloud blamed on human error, labelling

Human error and labelling and design problems led to the release of a large chemical cloud over a city in northeast Kansas that sent more than 140 people to the hospital last year and caused others to stay indoors or evacuate for several hours, federal investigators said Wednesday.

The chemical release from MGP Ingredients in Atchison, Kansas, occurred when a delivery truck driver inadvertently unloaded sulfuric acid into a tank that contained sodium hypochlorite. The chemical reaction produced chlorine gas, which drifted for nearly six miles over the Atchison region before dissipating after about four hours, according to preliminary findings from the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

All but a handful of those who went to the hospital suffered from respiratory issues such as shortness of breath and were treated and released.

"This incident could have been prevented," CSB chairwoman and CEO Vanessa Allen Sutherland said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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150 WAYS of looking at Canada

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Bull's sculptor challenges Fearless Girl

STREET ART

Threatens to sue, says statue violates artistic copyright

Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

Wall Street's Fearless Girl has spent weeks in a staring match with Charging Bull, and the bull blinked first.

The statue of the steadfast girl, which appeared on March 7 to mark International Women's Day, was created by artist Kristen Visbal and was commissioned by a New York advertising firm and a Boston investment bank as a pointed message to corporate America about the lack of women in their boardrooms.

However, where others see an inspiring note for women and girls, the sculptor behind the bull, Arturo Di Modica, sees "an advertising trick" that is violating his legal rights.

"I put it there for art," the Italian-born artist told MarketWatch in March. "My bull is a symbol for America. My bull is a symbol for prosperity and strength," adding that Fearless Girl infringes on his artistic copyright by offsetting it with a distinctively different element.

This week, in a bid to once again make his bull the master of its domain, Di Modica has turned to another symbol for America: threats of litigation.

The Italian-born artist has enlisted a lawyer to challenge city officials that granted the permit. Attorney Norman Siegel says he will be seeking the decision's paper trail to ensure proper procedures were followed.

Fearless Girl appeared on Wall Street on March 7 to mark International Women's Day. GETTY IMAGES

CANNABIS

Legal pot bill may call for plain packaging

Growers on the cusp of Canada's nascent marijuana industry are bracing for Thursday's long-awaited Liberal legislation on legal pot, which sources say is expected to require the newly unshackled drug to be sold only in plain, brand-free packaging.

The prospect of plain packaging, which tobacco manufacturers are also opposing, has pot producers warning the federal government that they won't be able to compete with the black market without some form of branding.

Health Minister Jane Philpott spoke to a Senate committee Wednesday about requiring plain packages for tobacco products — a measure that was also recommended by the federally appointed task force on marijuana.

In an interview, Philpott would neither confirm nor deny that the new bill would require plain packaging for legal marijuana, offering only that there are indeed public health lessons to be drawn from the experience with tobacco.

Prior to the bill's introduction, a number of prominent producers lobbied the government to resist the notion of plain pot packaging.

Pot producers warn they won't be able to compete with the black market without branding. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Seven companies wrote to Philpott and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to warn about the potential consequences.

"Without branding and in-store marketing collateral, it will be difficult to educate consumers about the products they are buying and help them differentiate between products," they wrote.

"Brands also ensure accountability, encouraging producers and retailers to provide quality products and support in the new market."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Safe Space

VINAY MENON ON BILL O'REILLY'S VACATION

O'Reilly told viewers he'd be back in two weeks. But there is an internal debate at Fox about his future.

Bill O'Reilly is taking a vacation that should be permanent.

"This time of year, I grab some vacation because it's spring and Easter time," O'Reilly told viewers on Tuesday night, sporting the fake smile of a creep under siege who secretly fears the jig is up. "Last fall, I booked a trip that should be terrific."

He did not reveal his itinerary, possibly to avoid tipping off women he may decide to sexually harass on his travels: "Yes, front desk? I need some loofah and your hottest cleaning lady sent to my room, pronto. Is there a masseuse on staff, preferably of Balinese descent? I'd like to show her something. Do you know if there are any Scandinavian flight attendants staying here? Oh. I see. Well, what are you wearing right now? Care to visit my pro-spin zone?"

Is this grossly unfair? No. Actually, it's not. If the above references are unclear, read the 23-page statement of claim in a sexual harassment lawsuit that a former producer from The O'Reilly Factor filed in 2004. It's a mind-blowing document that ended up on The Smoking Gun; just don't read it if you're eating a falafel, or ever again plan to eat a falafel.

At the time, Fox News treated the lawsuit as a regrettable aberration, possibly even one big misunderstanding. It was a one-off, execs whispered to reporters off the record — a one-off that warranted no official reprimand.

O'Reilly, then as now, was the network's biggest star. And even if he's widely perceived as a huffing and puffing gasbag who profits from random skirmishes in the culture wars he starts with his arsenal of intellectually dishonest grenades, he was and is ratings gold. Fox News without Bill O'Reilly, went the thinking inside Fox News, would be like McDonald's without the Big Mac.

Yes, unless the Big Mac was suddenly linked to a massive outbreak of E. coli.

After a number of scandals at the network recently — including the dismissal of former chairman Roger Ailes last summer

Fox News host Bill O'Reilly should make his upcoming vacation permanent, writes Vinay Menon. AP PHOTO

over, yes, charges he sexually harassed a number of female employees — can Fox afford to keep its biggest money-maker?

That's the real question.

As O'Reilly says, "The truth hurts." And the truth is that after scolding the world for more than two decades, after harnessing populist rage and making a killing as an alleged champion of decency and family values, O'Reilly's alleged indecency is now the story.

Unlike the lawsuit in 2004, the story this time won't fade into the ether. As this month's exodus of advertisers from The O'Reilly Factor suggests, companies are now far more likely to take a zero-tolerance stand against sexual harassment.

Sponsors don't want to be associated with predatory allegations.

The top-line damage to reputation overshadows the bottom line.

O'Reilly's downward spiral started earlier this month with an investigation by the New York Times. The newspaper discovered a total of $13 million has been paid to five women over the years "in exchange for agreeing to not pursue litigation or speak about their accusations against (O'Reilly)."

Why the eight digits of hush money? It seems the complaints against the talking head cover a "wide range of behaviour, including verbal abuse, lewd comments, unwanted advances and phone calls in which it sounded as if Mr. O'Reilly was masturbating."

And you thought telemarketers were treacherous.

According to the story, there was a "pattern" here: "Mr. O'Reilly would create a bond with some women by offering advice and promising to help them professionally. He then would pursue sexual relationships with them, causing some to fear that if they rebuffed him, their careers would stall."

That pattern, incidentally, was crystal clear in the 2004 lawsuit, which according to the Times, was settled out of court for roughly $9 million. But nothing was done.

So now O'Reilly is "on vacation." If he's travelling on United Airlines and the flight is overbooked, maybe he'll be dragged off the plane, battered and bruised. If that happened, he'd at least get a taste of how it feels to be abused by those in authority, to have his personal safety compromised and his rights violated just because someone thought they could get away with a reprehensible act.

He might even get new insights into what he's accused of doing.

O'Reilly told viewers he'd be back in two weeks. But as New York magazine reported on Tuesday night, there is an internal debate at Fox about his future.

There are those who believe he should never return from vacation.

Ironically, that's exactly what O'Reilly would favour if similar charges were levelled against a rapper, Hollywood liberal, feminist, leftist, atheist, tree-hugger, moonbat or any of the other enemy groups he's railed against as the stern granddaddy of conservative censure. He'd be screaming for blood right now.

This might be something he thinks about if his vacation never ends.

Vinay Menon is a Toronto Star entertainment columnist.

Students need role models to achieve true equity in school

Vicky Mochama
Metro

School can be pretty racist.

At one dance at my high school, a couple students showed up drunk. The school naturally involved the parents. In the end, the white kids who'd broken the rules were given light punishments, but the black boy was given a full week's suspension.

This was standard at my school. The white kids were given the benefit of the doubt while the full weight of the institution was brought to bear on the black students. At times, it was punitive. But at others, it looked like the bigotry of low expectations, such as guidance counsellors who steered black students away from university-oriented courses and toward college or technical ones.

There is another way school can be pretty racist. I lucked out on having parents who used to be teachers. But in 12 years of education across six schools, I only ever had one black teacher.

A recent working paper from the IZA – the Institute of Labor Economics found that having just one black teacher during elementary school decreases the probability of low-income black boys dropping out by nearly 40 per cent. Moreover, black students who'd had one black teacher were more likely to say they expected to go to college.

While the research is American, the conclusion is useful for schools here: Diversity within the teaching ranks isn't just a statistical measure about "representation." It is actually essential for students to see role models in order to imagine their own success.

Equity builds on diversity by letting students of all races see teachers of colour in a range of positions within education.

Another American study showed that students of all races are more likely to have positive perceptions of teachers of colour, and that this perception was linked to performance in standardized tests.

Canada's demographic changes are going to be felt in our schools. Around cities especially, the commitment of school boards to equity is going to affect how well non-white students do.

For a long time now, parents in York Region District School Board, just north of Toronto, have complained that their kids were facing a system of racism and discrimination. A report this week vindicates the parents. The trustee who referred to a parent with a racial slur isn't an anomaly but, rather, proof of a systemic problem and a lack of skilled leadership.

The report notes that under the current director of education, the board had made equity "a foundational practice." Parents, however, were unclear what that meant. Furthermore, presentations on equity showed no specific plans or targets.

Equity – and its partners, diversity and inclusion – have become vague terms. But in school, especially, it is essential that they are clearly understood and made a priority.

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metro WEEKEND
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MOVIES MUSIC TELEVISION DIGITAL

Take a flagging franchise, add Dwayne Johnson and watch flaccid box office numbers suddenly grow, writes Richard Crouse. CONTRIBUTED

Johnson is 'franchise Viagra'

IN FOCUS

Former wrestler is Hollywood's biggest actor

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

A movie star is someone who can carry a movie, a person audiences will line up to see no matter what the film. There's no formula, just equal parts talent, charisma and staying power.

For years Tom Cruise and Will Smith ruled the Hollywood roost, but Cruise's couch jumping tarnished his star (unless he's headlining a movie with the words Mission Impossible in the title) and Smith has hit a box office rough patch.

These days, Hollywood's biggest movie star is a former wrestler who made his acting debut playing his own father on an episode of That '70s Show. Since then Dwayne Johnson's paycheques have blossomed along with his popularity and in 2016 he was the world's highest-paid actor, in part due to his reputation as "franchise Viagra."

It's a simple formula. Take a flagging franchise; add Johnson and flaccid box office numbers suddenly grow. Case in point, the Fast and Furious series. Johnson signed on for the fifth instalment, playing Diplomatic Security Service agent Luke Hobbs, helping that movie make north of six-hundred million dollars. His over-the-top presence — who else could remove a cast from his broken arm simply by flexing his oversized biceps? — drove the grosses of the next two F&F movies to the stratosphere. This weekend's The Fate of the Furious is poised to shatter even more records.

Haters, like a recent commenter at Variety.com, who complained that Johnson, "has never done a compelling complex character, only mindless good vs evil roles," miss his populist appeal.

Despite his Greek God physique, he's an everyman, a charismatic crowd-pleaser with a cocked eyebrow.

His appeal continues off screen as well. He's a big deal now but that wasn't always the case and he's positioned himself as an inspirational figure, a muscle bound Tony Robbins. "I started w/ $7 bucks. If I can overcome, so can you," he tweeted when he was crowned the World's Highest-Paid Actor.

"I have enjoyed a good amount of success and I'm very grateful for everything I have," he told me a few years ago. "I'm very grateful for being who I am. I make sure to approach every project and everything I do as if it is going to be my last."

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Their Finest ★★★	HOW RATING WORKS
Maudie ★★★★	★★★★ SEE IT
Gifted ★★★	★★★ WORTHWHILE
A Quiet Passion ★★★★	★★ UP TO YOU
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Love before there was Sex and the City

Five years after being offered the role as Emily Dickenson, actress Cynthia Nixon thought the film would never come together, writes Richard Crouse. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Poet Emily Dickenson portrayed by Cynthia Nixon

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

"Success is counted sweetest, By those who ne'er succeed," wrote Emily Dickenson in one of the seven poems she published during her lifetime.

Those lines must have played on the minds of the filmmakers behind A Quiet Passion, a biopic of the reclusive nineteenth century poet. Production suffered setback after setback while bringing the story to the screen.

Five years after being offered the role Cynthia Nixon said, "I never thought it would come together. I thought, 'Thank you for thinking of me, it is a good part for me but I don't see how you are going to get this made.'"

The former Sex and the City star often thought about the project but claims she was never impatient at the film's lack of progress.

"I started acting as a 12-year-old and I went to a very tough school and what that taught me was that when I was up for a job that I really wanted and I didn't get, I would think to myself, 'At least I don't have to do double duty. I don't have to do school and work.' Now I have three children and am married. I run a household so when I am not working, I feel it less than other people.

"If you are in something for the long haul you are not constantly taking its temperature."

It took years but Nixon and director Terence Davies succeeded in telling Dickenson's story, bringing to cinematic life not only the facts — she was reclusive and never married — but also the essence of a person with an insatiable need to question societal norms.

"The questions she is asking as a person and as a woman," says Nixon, "they are big questions. How do I deal with all this love I feel? What does it mean to be intimate with another person? Will I lose myself and do I want to lose myself? I think she was so ahead of her time in thinking these things were an option, like whether she would marry or not. For her that was a question. It wasn't like she was dying to get married and didn't. She chose not to. Whether she was going to be a mother or not. These are questions that women today deal with as a matter of course but most nineteenth century women would not have even stopped to consider."

Nixon says Dickenson's ideas and words have been a constant in her life. "We had a record at home of Julie Harris reading some of the poems and the letters. I would listen to them again and again so some of the better-known poems and letters I learned by heart."

Dickenson died 130 years ago but Nixon feels there are timely elements in A Quiet Passion for today's audiences.

"If you think about the mid nineteenth century in America and you think about the issues we were dealing with in terms of women, it is a straight line from there to here. We've obviously come very far but it is exactly the same issues. Are women going to be treated equally?

She saw the jump between the way things are supposed to be and the way things are, and she didn't try to wallpaper over anything."

Love is 'like a pair of odd socks'

A romance blossoms between Everett (Ethan Hawke) and Maud Lewis (Sally Hawkins) in Maudie. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Ethan Hawke says he relishes chance to play gruff character

Richard Crouse
For Metro Canada

In Maudie, a biopic of Nova Scotia folk artist Maud Lewis, Ethan Hawke plays Everett, the artist's brusque husband. "You walk funny," he says when he first meets her. "You a cripple? You sick?"

In other words, he's not exactly a charmer.

"It's always fun and such and such a great experience to get to play a character that audiences love," says Hawke.

"It feels really good. But often to tell a really interesting story you have to play people who are badly behaved. I feel that as gruff and as unacceptable as a lot of Everett's behaviour is, it is not uncommon at all of men of that time period. I remember my grandmother always accusing my grandfather of not wanting a wife but a maid. He's somebody that in the course of that relationship learns how to love."

As romance blossoms between them, Maud's art —handmade postcards, paintings — slowly gains fans, including Vice President Richard Nixon who purchased a landscape by mail. As Maud's increasing recognition threatens Everett's simple way of life their union becomes strained.

The couple is, as Maud says, "like a pair of odd socks."

"I thought it was a beautiful journey to go from someone who was abusive to somebody who knew how to love and care for another person. That's an interesting character to get to play."

The script caught his eye not only because of the chance to play a complicated character but also because of his affinity for Nova Scotia.

"I bought a place in Nova Scotia probably in the late nineties. I've been going up there once or twice a year every since then. I love it up there.

"Through a friend of a friend they thought I might like the script just because I like Nova Scotia so much. They were right. Of course then they tricked me and the shooting ended up being in Newfoundland. I thought I could shoot this movie and live in my house, but I couldn't."

Maudie is a movie about small moments; an exchanged look, a caress. Like its real-life inspirations, the film is unpretentious — occasionally gruff but always honest and truthful.

"Most of us aren't in giant espionage battles or helicopter chases. Most of us don't need a superhero," Hawke says. "For most of us the real events of our lives correspond around love. The losing of it, the gaining of it. How we feel about any given time period of our life has to do with that and I think it is very difficult to make love stories for adults because they're very complicated.

"Arthur Miller has a great quote about how everybody is interested in stories about falling in love and getting married, or stories that start with a break up but end in somebody finding resolution. But what is very difficult to do is show the actual relationship. I love this story for the messiness of the real life in it."

LOST ART

Maud Lewis painting to be displayed

A recently discovered painting by Maud Lewis went on display Tuesday, as the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia highlights its collection of the famed folk artist's works to coincide with a new feature film on her life.

The work entitled "Portrait of Eddie Barnes and Ed Murphy, Lobster Fishermen, Bay View, N.S.," was recently found by volunteers sorting through donations to the Mennonite Central Committee Thrift Centre in New Hamburg, Ont.

The painting will be on display Tuesday through Sunday and from April 21 to May 19 at the Homer Watson House and Gallery in Kitchener.

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MOVIE LISTINGS

DOWNTOWN

Carlton
20 Carlton St.

All These Sleepless Nights Fri-Thu 4-9:20 **The Boss Baby** Fri-Thu 1:25-3:55-6:35-9 **Get Out** Fri-Thu 1:45-4:05-7-9:30 **Ghost in the Shell** Fri-Thu 1:35-4:10-6:45-9:15 **Hidden Figures** Fri-Tue 3:50-9:10 Wed 3:50 Thu 3:50-9:10 **How Heavy This Hammer** Wed 6:30 **How to Plan an Orgy in a Small Town** Wed 9 **Kedi** Fri-Sun 1:30-3:45 Mon 3:45 Tue 1:30-3:45 Thu 1:30-3:45 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri-Thu 1:15-3:55-6:35-9:15 **Life** Fri-Tue 6:30-9 Thu 9:30 **Logan** Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-8 **Mission Control: The Unsung Heroes of Apollo** Fri-Thu 1:35-6:55 **One Week** Wed 1:30-9:05 **The Sense of an Ending** Fri-Tue 1:20-6:40 Wed 1:20 Thu 1:20-6:40 **Sex After Kids** Wed 6:45 **Smurfs: The Lost Village** Fri-Thu 1:40-4-6:50-9:10 **Tower** Wed 4:45

Scotiabank Theatre, 259 Richmond

Beauty and the Beast Fri-Sun 5:15-11:25 Mon-Thu 4:35-10:40; 3D Fri-Sun 11:05-1:30-2:10-4:35-7:40-8:20-10:50 Mon-Thu 1-1:30-4:05-7:10-7:40-10:20; Sing-Along Fri-Sun 1:15-6:50 Mon-Thu 12:30-6:30 **The Fate of the Furious** Fri-Sun 11:40-12:10-12:40-2:20-2:50-3:20-3:50-5:30-6-6:30-7-8:40-9:10-9:40-10:10 Mon-Tue 11:40-12:10-1:50-2:20-2:50-3:20-5-5:30-6-6:30-8:10-8:40-9:10-9:40 Wed 12:10-1:50-2:50-3:25-5-5:30-6-6:30-8:10-8:40-9:10-9:40 Thu 12:10-1:50-2:20-2:50-3:20-5-5:30-6-6:30-8:10-8:40-9:10-9:40 Fri-Sun 11-2:05-5:10-8:15-11:25 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40; IMAX Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Free Fire Thu 8:30-10:45 **Ghost in the Shell** Fri-Sun 11:15-1:45-4:25 Mon-Tue 11:50-2:30-5:10 Wed 12:30-3-7:05 Thu 2:30-5:10; 3D Fri-Sun 7:10-9:50 Mon-Tue 7:50-10:35 Wed 10:35 Thu 7:50-10:35 **Goon: Last of the Enforcers** Fri-Sun 4:15-10 Mon-Thu 3:35-9:30 **John Wick: Chapter 2** Fri 11-2-5-8-11 Sat 8-11 Sun 11-2-5-8-11 Mon 12:45-3:45-9:45 Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Wed 12:45-3:45-9:45 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri-Sun 11:30-5:25-8:30 Mon-Thu 1:05-6:50; 3D Fri-Sun 2:30-11:20 Mon-Thu 3:55-9:55 Life Fri-Sun 12:20-3-5:35-8:05-10:45 Mon-Tue 11:40-2:15-4:50-7:35-10:15 Wed-Thu 2:15-4:50-7:35-10:15 **Logan** Fri-Sun 1:25-4:40-7:50-11:10 Mon-Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:30

Market Square
80 Front St.

Beauty and the Beast Fri-Thu 1-3:45-6:40-9:25 **The Boss Baby** Fri-Thu 1:05-3:50-6:45-9:15 **The Fate of the Furious** Fri-Thu 12:45-1:10-3:40-6:35-7-9:30 **Ghost in the Shell** Fri-Thu 4:05-9:50 **Going in Style** Fri-Sat 12:50-3:30-6:25-9:20 Sun-Mon 12:50-6:25 Tue 12:50-3:30-6:25-9:20 Wed 12:50-6:25 Thu 12:50-3:30-6:25-9:20 Sun-Mon 3:30-9:20 Wed 3:30-9:20 **Smurfs: The Lost Village** Fri-Thu 12:55-3:35-6:30-9:05

Varsity
55 Bloor St. W.

Beauty and the Beast Fri 3:20 Sat-Sun 4:15 Mon-Thu 3:20 Fri-Thu 12:30-6:30; 3D Fri 12:20-7:10-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 12:20-7:10-10:20 Fri-Thu 3:30-9:30 **The Fate of the Furious** Fri 12:30-3:40-7-10:10 Sat-Sun 10:25-12:30-3:40-7-10:10 Mon-Tue 12:30-3:40-7-10:10 Wed 12-3-7-10:30 Thu 12:30-3:40-7-10:10 Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10 **Going in Style** Fri 1-3:30-6:15-9 Sat-Sun 10:35-1-3:30-6:15-9 Mon-Thu 1-3:30-6:15-9 **Maudie** Fri 12:55-3:55-7:20-10:05 Sat-Sun 10:30-1:10-3:55-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:55-3:55-7-9:50 Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 **A Quiet Passion** Fri 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 10:25-12:45-3:45-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:40 **T2 Trainspotting** Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:15-10 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:10-10 **Their Finest** Fri 1:20-4-6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 10:30-1:25-4-6:50-9:50 Mon-Wed 1:20-4-6:50-9:50 Thu 1:20-4-6:50-10:30 Fri-Thu 12-3-6-9 **The Zookeeper's Wife** Fri-Mon 12:10-3:10-6-9:15 Tue 12:35-3:20-6:10-9:15 Wed-Thu 12:10-3:10-6-9:15

Yonge & Dundas, 10 Dundas St.

Beauty and the Beast Fri-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:55 Fri-Tue 3:30-10:30 Wed 3:30-10:20 Thu 3:30-10:15; 3D Fri-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:50-10:55 Fri-Thu 12-7 **The Boss Baby** Fri 11:25-2-4:30-7-9:30 Sat-Wed 11:30-2-4:30-7-9:30 Thu 11:30-4:30-7-9:30; 3D Fri-Thu 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 **Cezanne et moi** Fri 4:15 Sat 9:15 Sun 3:30 Tue 2 Wed 5:15 Thu 2 **The Devotion of Suspect X** Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:05 **Extraordinary Mission** Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:20 **The Fate of the Furious** Fri-Tue 11:30-12:30-1:30-3-4-5-6:30-7:30-8:30-10-11-11:45 Wed-Thu 11:30-12:30-1-3-4-4:30-6:30-7:30-8-9:45-10:45-11:15 Fri 1:05-4:15-7:25-10:35 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Mon-Thu 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40; IMAX Fri-Sun 11-2:05-5:10-8:15-11:30 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 **Get Out** Fri-Thu 12:10-2:55-5:40-8:20-11 **Ghost in the Shell** 3D Fri-Tue 11-2-6-9:30 Wed 2:30-10 Thu 2-6-9:15 **Gifted** Fri-Wed 11:35-2:05-4:35-7:05-9:35 Thu 11:30-4:35-7:05-9:35 **Going in Style** Fri-Sun 12:20-2:40-5:05-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 12:20-2:40-5:05-7:30-10:05 **The Graduate** Fri 9:15 Sun 9:15 Mon 2 Tue-Wed 10 **Naam Shabana** Fri-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:50-10 Mon 12:40-3:45-10 Tue 12:40-3:45-6:50-10 Wed 10 Thu 12:40-3:45-10 **Perfume War** Fri 2-7 Sat 4-7 Sun 1-7 Mon 4:15-10:15 Tue 4:30 Wed 7:45 Thu 4:30 **Saban's Power Rangers** Fri-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon 12:15-3:20-6:50-10:15 Tue-Thu 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:40 **Smurfs: The Lost Village** Fri-Sun 4:40 Mon-Thu 4:40; 3D Fri 11:45-2:20-7:20-9:40 Sat 11:45-2:20-7:10-9:30 Sun 11:45-2:20-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 11:45-2:20-7-9:20 **Song to Song** Fri-Thu 11:25-2:20-5:20-8:15-11:10 **T2 Trainspotting** Fri-Sat 11:10-1:55-4:40-7:30-10:20 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:30 **Your Name** Fri-Thu 12:10-2:45-5:20-7:55-10:30 Thu 2:45-7-10:30

MIDTOWN

Yonge-Eglinton Centre
2300 Yonge St.

Beauty and the Beast Fri 12:45-4 Sat 1:20-4 Sun-Tue 12:45-4 Wed 1:50-5 Thu 12:45-4 Fri-Tue 4 Wed-Thu 3:50; 3D Fri-Tue 7-10:10 Wed 7:55-10:45 Thu 7-10:10 Fri-Sun 12:30-7:30-11 Mon 12:30-7:30-10:40 Tue 7:30-10:45 Wed-Thu 7-10:20 **The Boss Baby** Fri-Thu 12:25-3-5:30; 3D Fri-Thu 7:55-10:25 **The Fate of the Furious** Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Mon 12:15-3:15-6:50-10:10 Tue 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Wed 3:40-6:55-10 Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Fri-Sun 12-1-3:30-4:30-7-8-10:30-11:30 Mon 12-1-3:30-4:30-7-8-10:15-11:10 Tue 3:30-4:30-7-8-10:15-11:15 Wed-Thu 3:30-4:15-6:40-7:30-10-10:45 Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 **Get Out** Fri 1:30-4:30-7:15-10:05 Sat 4:30-7:15-10:05 Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-10:05 Mon 1:20-4:10-10:05 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:15-10:05 Wed 4:25-10:05 Thu 1:30-4:30-10:05 **Ghost in the Shell** Fri 12:20-3:05-5:40 Sat 11:45-2:20-5 Sun-Tue 12:20-3:05-5:40 Wed 5:30 Thu 12:20-3:05-5:40; 3D Fri 8:10-10:45 Sat 7:40-10:35 Sun-Thu 8:10-10:45 **Gifted** Fri 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:25 Sat 11:30-2:10-4:55-7:45-10:25 Sun-Tue 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:25 Wed 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:25 Thu 1:35-4:15-7:15-10:25 **Going in Style** Fri 12:20-2:55-5:25-8-10:30 Sat 12:20-2:55-5:45-8:15-10:45 Sun-Tue 12:20-2:55-5:25-8-10:30 Wed 1:20-4-7:15-10:30 Thu 12:15-2:55-5:25-8-10:30 **Hop** Sat 11 **Smurfs: The Lost Village** Fri 5:10 Sat 5:45 Sun 5:10 Mon-Thu 5:10; 3D Fri 12:35-2:50-7:25-9:45 Sat 11:10-1:20-3:30-8-10:15 Sun 12:35-2:50-7:25-9:45 Mon-Thu 12:35-2:50-7:25-9:45

NORTH YORK

Empress Walk
5095 Yonge St.

Beauty and the Beast Fri 3:45-9:30 Sat 4:45-10:40 Sun 3:45-9:30 Mon 3:30-9:30 Tue 3:45-9:30 Wed 4:40-9:35 Thu 4:20-9:35; 3D Fri-Sun 1:15-7 Mon 1:20-7:10 Tue 7 Wed 6:50 Thu 7:20 **The Boss Baby** Fri 1:05-6:50 Sat 11:50-2:15-7:55 Sun 1:05-6:50 Mon 12:50-6:40 Tue 6:50 Wed-Thu 7; 3D Fri-Sun 4:15-10:05 Mon 4:30-10:15 Tue 4:15-10:05 Wed 4:10-9:50 Thu 4:50-10:15 **The Fate of the Furious** Fri 12:20-1:25-3:30-4:35-6:40-7:45-9:55-11 Sat 12:15-1:25-3:30-4:35-6:40-7:45-9:55-11 Sun 12:20-1:25-3:30-4:35-6:40-7:45-9:55-11 Mon 12:10-12:40-3:20-3:50-6:30-7-9:40-10:10 Tue 3:30-4:35-6:40-7:45-9:55-11 Wed-Thu 3:30-4:30-6:15-6:40-9:15-9:45; IMAX Fri-Sun 12:55-4:05-7:15-10:25 Mon 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Tue 4:05-7:15-10:25 Wed-Thu 4-7:10-10:15 **Ghost in the Shell** Fri 12:15-2:45-5:20 Sat 12:25-3:20-4:55 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:20 Mon 1-3:40-6:20 Tue-Wed 4:45 Thu 4:10; 3D Fri 7:55-10:40 Sat 7:35-10:20 Sun 7:55-10:40 Mon 10:40 Tue 7:55-10:40 Wed 7:20-10:10 Thu 6:45 **Going in Style** Fri-Sun 12:45-3:10-5:35-8:10-10:50 Mon 12:20-2:50-5:35-8-10:30 Tue 4:55-8:10-10:50 Wed 3:50-7:40-10 Thu 3:50-7:40-10:10 **Smurfs: The Lost Village** Fri-Sun 5:40 Mon 5:25 Tue 5:05 Wed 4:20 Thu 4:40; 3D Fri-Sun 12:35-3-8:05-10:35 Mon 12:30-3-7:50-10:20 Tue 8:05-10:35 Wed 7:50-10:15 Thu 7:30-9:55 **Their Finest** Fri-Sun 1:35-4:25-7:25-10:15 Mon 12:55-4-6:50-9:50 Tue 4:25-7:25-10:15 Wed 3:40-6:30-9:25 Thu 3:40-6:30-9:20 **The Zookeeper's Wife** Fri 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:40 Sat 6:30-9:40 Sun 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon 12:10-3:10-9:20 Tue 3:30-6:30-9:40 Wed 3:30-6:25-9:30 Thu 3:30-9:25

SilverCity Yorkdale 6
3401 Dufferin St.

Beauty and the Beast Fri-Sun 11:30-8 Mon 12-6:50 Tue-Thu 12:30-6:50; 3D Fri-Sun 4:30-10:20 Mon 4:40-10:20 Tue-Thu 4:30-10:20 **The Boss Baby** Fri-Sun 5:30-11 Mon 3:40-10 Tue-Thu 3:30-9:50; 3D Fri 1:45-7:40 Sat 11:15-1:45-7:40 Sun 1:45-7:40 Mon 11:30-2-7:40 Tue-Thu 1:40-7:40 **The Fate of the Furious** Fri-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 Mon 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40 Tue-Thu 1:50-5-8:15 Fri-Sun 11-2:05-5:10-8:15-11:25 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:50-7-10:10 Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 **Get Out** Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon 1:30-4:10-7:20-10 Tue-Thu 1:30-4:40-7:20-10 **Ghost in the Shell** Fri-Sun 12-2:30-2:40-5:20 Mon 1:45-4:45; 3D Fri-Thu 7:50-10:30 **Hop** Sat 11 **Kong: Skull Island** Fri-Mon 3:30 Tue 2-3:40-4:50-9:40 Wed-Thu 2-3:40-4:50; 3D Fri-Sun 12:15-6:40-9:45 Mon 12:30-6:40-9:50 Tue 12:50-6:40 Wed-Thu 12:50-6:40-9:40 **Logan** Fri-Sun 10:50 Mon-Thu 10:30 **Saban's Power Rangers** Fri-Sun 1-4-7:20 Mon 1-4-7:10 Tue-Thu 1-4:10-7:10 **Smurfs: The Lost Village** Fri-Sun 4:40 Mon 4:35 Tue-Thu 4; 3D Fri-Sun 11:45-2:15-7-9:30 Mon 11:45-2:10-6:50-9:20 Tue 1:20 Wed-Thu 1:20-6:30-9 Tue 6:30-9

Silvercity Fairview
1800 Sheppard Ave.

Beauty and the Beast Fri-Mon 11-4:50 Tue 4:35 Wed-Thu 3:55; 3D Fri-Sun 1:55-7:55-11 Mon 1:55-7:55-10:55 Tue 1:40-7:40-10:45 Wed 7-10:05 Thu 1-7-10:05 **The Boss Baby** Fri 10:30-11-1:20-3:45-6:10 Sat-Mon 11-1:20-3:45-6:10 Tue 1:20-3:45-6:10 Wed 3:40-6:05 Thu 1:15-3:40-6:05; 3D Fri-Tue 8:35-11 Wed-Thu 8:30-10:55 **The Fate of the Furious** Fri 10:30-12:25-1:30-3:35-4:35-6:45-7:45-9:55-10:55-11:15 Sat 12:25-1:25-3:35-4:35-6:45-7:45-9:55-10:55-11:15 Sun 12:25-1:30-3:35-4:35-6:45-7:45-9:55-10:55-11:15 Mon 11:35-12:25-1:30-3:35-4:35-6:45-7:45-9:55-10:55 Tue 12:25-1:30-3:35-4:35-6:45-7:45-9:55-10:55-11:05 Wed 12:25-1:30-3:35-4:35-6:45-7:45-9:55-10:55 Thu 12:25-1:25-3:35-4:35-6:45-7:45-9:55-10:55 Fri-Thu 12:55-4:05-7:15-10:25 **Get Out** Fri-Mon 2:50-5:25-8 Tue-Wed 5:25-8 Thu 3:10 **Ghost in the Shell** Fri-Sun 12:50-3:25-6 Mon 12:05-2:40-5:15 Tue 12:35-3:25-6 Wed 1:55-4:30 Thu 2:10-4:45; 3D Fri-Sun 8:40-11:15 Mon 7:55-10:30 Tue 8:40-11:05 Wed 7:10-9:45 Thu 7:25-10 **Going in Style** Fri 11-1:20-3:45-6:15-8:30 Sat 1:20-3:45-6:15-8:30 Sun 11-1:20-3:45-6:15-8:30 Mon 2:40-5:05-7:35-10 Tue 1:10-3:35-6:05-8:20 Wed 2:50-5:15-7:45-10:15 Thu 2:45-5:10-7:40-10:05 **Hop** Sat 11 **Logan** Fri-Wed 10:35 **Saban's Power Rangers** Fri-Mon 11:50 Tue 2:25 Wed 2:20 Thu 12:25 **Smurfs: The Lost Village** Fri-Sun 11:15-6:15 Mon 11:15-6:15 Tue 5:45 Wed 6:15 Thu 5:40; 3D Fri-Sun 1:30-3:50-8:40-11:05 Mon 1:30-3:50-8:40-11 Tue 1-3:20-8:10-10:35 Wed 1:30-3:50-8:40-11:05 Thu 12:55-3:15-8:05-10:30

ADAPTATIONS

Nevermind peak TV, this is peak Atwood

Margaret Atwood is notoriously late for interviews. She's also renowned for not necessarily answering the questions you've posed, but for giving answers to her own unasked queries instead, in turn quizzing the interviewer.

At 77 years old and with more awards and honorary doctorates than are perhaps possible to count, the Canadian author is easily forgiven. If anything, these quirks add to her mischievous charm and wise aura, and leave you feeling as though you've just had an important conversation about the world rather than having simply discussed the latest in "speculative fiction."

That's the wide-reaching, self-definition Atwood attaches to her futuristic, dystopian novels like The Handmaid's Tale and the MaddAddam series, tomes that are proving to be more relevant today than when she first wrote them. And with a number of her works getting the TV treatment — Bravo premieres the Alexis Bledel and Elisabeth Moss-led The Handmaid's Tale on April 30 just as Kids' CBC unrolls a 26-part children's series on April 29 based on the author's Wandering Wenda and Widow Wallop's Wunderground Washery — these stories are about to be available to audiences in more ways than ever before.

Add another CBC adaptation in the upcoming Sarah Gadon-starring Alias Grace and MGM's development of the dystopian offering The Heart Goes Last, and the prolific — and maybe prophetic — author seems to be everywhere these days.

That includes cameos, executive producer titles and even working on a potential sequel to The Handmaid's Tale (although the writer is cagey about that last point, neither confirming nor denying the rumours that surfaced after this month's release of a special audio version of the book that hinted at a followup tale).

Margaret Atwood
LIZ BEDDAL/FOR METRO

The author says that so far she's impressed with what she's seen of executive producer Bruce Miller's take on The Handmaid's Tale, simply calling it "great" and alluding to more departures from the open-ended novel in the already anticipated second season.

For those keeping track, TV is just the latest extension of Atwood's brand. Between her novels, children's series, the third volume of her first graphic novel, Angel Catbird, planned for summer, not to mention a plethora of speaking engagements, red carpets and media events tied to The Handmaid's Tale release (she'll be at a screening of the first episode at Innis College April 26), Atwood has far from limited herself creatively.

"How is it that I can do all these different things?" she wonders. "Always did. Always have. In high school, on one hand I was writing dismal poetry but on the other hand I was putting on the world's only home economics opera."

Given all that, you can't blame us for wondering where she'll venture next. Wherever it is, just don't call her a prophet.

"I'm not a prophet. Honest, I'm not a prophet. If I were a prophet I would have cleaned up on the stock market years ago."
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

New book proves Lilly Singh is a total Bawse

INTERVIEW

YouTube star trades viral for vulnerable in strong debut

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Forbes declared Singh the highest-paid woman on YouTube and its third-highest earner overall, with estimated 2016 earnings of $7.5 million USD. GETTY IMAGES

Lilly Singh is often called an overnight success, but in reality, her fairytale rise to fame is the result of what your grandma might have called old-fashioned elbow grease.

In late March, the YouTube superstar made her third appearance on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. Within a week, after releasing a couple new videos, Singh returned to her old high school, Lester B. Pearson Collegiate Institute in Scarborough, presenting on behalf of First Books Canada, a literacy program that donated 650 copies of her new book, How to Be a Bawse: A Guide to Conquering Life, to an auditorium full of screaming teenagers.

The following day in Toronto, while on her international 34-date book tour, Singh sits in a boardroom at her Canadian publisher, Penguin Random House Canada, for media interviews. There's a handmade pillow sewn by her mother on the chair beside her, a reminder of home wherever she travels.

Singh was 22, living in her parents' Markham home, depressed and caught in a dead-end job when she started producing her own YouTube videos under the alias Superwoman. Her early content catered mostly to South Asian teens, but as she began to share more observations about life as a young woman, the universality of her mildly feminist messages and straight-up comedy went viral.

In a few years, Singh has amassed over 11 million subscribers and two billion views on the video platform, a sold-out international comedy tour and a role in the Mila Kunis film Bad Moms. Forbes declared her the highest-paid woman on YouTube and its third-highest earner overall, with estimated 2016 earnings of $7.5 million USD.

Singh says writing How to Be a Bawse took a year and allowed her to show a more vulnerable side to her fans.

The book caters mostly to her young 13–24 demographic, but her message to millennials is old school, with chapter titles like Don't Overthink and Commit to Your Decisions.

"We are in this environment where we're easily validated by social media," says Singh.

"No one wants to go to the gym, they'd rather take a selfie at the gym. But I want to bring back the art of hard work." (If there's doubt that the BuzzFeed generation is open to motivational advice from books, Bawse became a national bestseller the week after its release.)

Singh tries to live up to her own advice. Yet she is also fearful of reaching a level of superstardom where her values become blurry.

Every morning she reminds herself: "This is great but don't forget the person you want to be." That also meant learning how to publicly acknowledge her successes. Singh used to be embarrassed about the Forbes article, fearful of coming across as boastful. But now, in true bawse style, she says, "I own it and say I am super proud."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

metro HOME

Your essential daily news

IDEO founder's California home by Ettore Sottsass, of the Memphis Group, is on the market for $19.9M

MEET THE CONDO

Master-planned community in Scarborough

Project overview

ME2 is the next phase of a master-planned community of condos, townhomes, shops and parks in Scarborough. The tree-lined courtyard has a scenic water feature and a landscaped podium rooftop with outdoor pool.

In the neighbourhood

The location offers great shopping at the nearby Scarborough Town Centre. There are parklands, bicycle trails and golfing in the area, as well as a number of schools and college campuses.

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

Housing amenities

Amenities include an interactive sports lounge, a fitness and yoga area and a bar with plasma screens. The ground floor has a demonstration kitchen, private dining room, a spacious party room, a theatre and guest suites.

Location and transit

The community is near Scarborough's regional transit hub, offering TTC bus service, the LRT and GO buses. Drivers are conveniently located near the 401 Highway and downtown Toronto is accessible via the Don Valley Parkway.

NEED TO KNOW

What: ME2 Condominiums
Builder: Lash Group of Companies
Location: Markham and Ellesmere in Scarborough
Building: 29-storey tower with 299 units
Models: One bedroom plus den and two bed plus den
Sizes: From 503 to 885 square feet
Pricing: From $270,990 to $564,990
Status: Open to the public
Occupancy: December 2020
Sales centre: 1151 Markham Rd.
Phone: (416) 430-0003
Website: meliving.ca

SOLUTIONS

Industry to recognize mid-rise housing — council needs to catch up

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

Some people are pushing mid-rise housing as one of the potential solutions to ease our housing supply challenges in the GTA.

Mid-rise typically refers to buildings up to 11 storeys that can be built in walkable, transit-oriented neighbourhoods. Done well, mid-rise fits into existing neighbourhoods and doesn't overpower surrounding lower density main streets.

In 2010, the City of Toronto released "The Avenues and Mid-Rise Buildings Study," which called for more growth along arterial corridors known as "The Avenues," and gentle intensification in the form of mid-rise buildings.

While the study was admirable, the city has not taken the actions to enable the development community to readily deliver. The planning department has not updated zoning bylaws in support of mid-rise development. Our industry has repeatedly asked for more pre-designation and pre-zoning of land to encourage such development, but it has yet to happen.

But BILD members are finding ways to deliver mid-rise options. According to Altus Group, BILD's official source for new home market intelligence, 39 per cent of the new condo apartment projects that were launched in the GTA between 2014 and 2016 were in buildings of nine storeys or less. While 25 per cent of the new condominium apartment buildings in Toronto were under 10 floors, 61 per cent of those in 905 municipalities were.

Ronald Herczeg at Insoho Developments has made an art of designing mid-rise buildings. The loft conversion of The Malthouse at the Distillery District is one of Insoho's signature developments, featuring 10 unique units that exemplify the building form. Insoho is now selling Imagine, at Kennedy Road and St. Clair Avenue E., which features striking contemporary architecture along one of the city's designated main streets.

PACE on Main by Geranium is currently under construction in Stouffville and SigNature Communities brought Triumph, a seven-storey mid-rise in the heart the old village of Schomberg, to the market with great success.

Last year we changed many categories in our annual industry awards program, BILD Awards, to better reflect members' work in mid-rise. Among them was the introduction of a new category for Best Mid-Rise Building Design. It was won by the VANDYK Group of Companies for its The Craftsman Condominium Residences in Mississauga's Clarkson Village.

The finalists in the category this year are all located in Toronto and they are Marlin Spring for Canvas, Stafford Homes Ltd. for Avenue & Park, The Rockport Group for George Condos + Towns, and the Residences of the Hunt Club.

We will announce the winner in this category and 50 others at BILD Awards on April 28.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

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Avoiding mortgage insurance

CMHC

By building up your down payment, you can avoid those fees

Camilla Cornell

When Cris Lam bought her pre-construction condo in 2014, she was in the enviable position of having a big enough down payment to avoid mortgage default insurance fees.

Why would she want to avoid insurance, you ask? The simple answer: because mortgage default insurance is really intended to protect the lender, not the homeowner. It ensures if you default on your loan, the bank, trust company or other lender will get its money anyway.

Avoiding the insurance — sold by either Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. (CMHC) or Genworth — can save the average homeowner a significant amount of cash over time. Fees rose in March for the third time in the last few years, as part of new regulatory requirements that stipulated CMHC and Genworth had to hold more capital to offset risks in the country's booming real estate market.

For example, if the average price of a house is $730,472 (as it was in Toronto last year), according to the CMHC's premium calculator, if you make the minimum down payment on that home of $48,048 and opt to have the CMHC premiums added to your mortgage, you'll pay more than $27,000 over the life of your mortgage. That's nothing to sniff at.

Cris Lam received financial assistance from her parents to purchase a condo and avoid mortgage insurance costs. PEYMAN SOHEILI

You can avoid those fees and cut down on your interest payments as well by building up your down payment. Here's how:

Visit the bank of mom and dad. Lam's secret weapon was her parents. In 2013, they sold the family home, giving Lam, her sister and her brother $200,000 each to purchase a home of their own.

They even sweetened the pot, boosting Lam's share by $30,000 so she could live on the eighth floor of her condo building — "Chinese lucky number 8." Lam says she and all of her siblings are so grateful for the support. "I know it's not trendy, but why not ask your parents — who may be downsizing in the future — to start thinking of what can happen if you get your pre-inheritance now to purchase your future home?" she suggests.

Note that mortgage lenders may ask for a signed 'gift letter' indicating the money doesn't have to be repaid and specifying the amount, who is offering the cash and their relationship to the recipient.

Take a systematic approach to savings. Even with her parents' contribution, Lam needed a financial planner's help to ensure she was debt-free and had spare cash to cover all the additional costs of home ownership.

She met with Victor Godinho, a financial planner with Pangea Personal Financial Planning, who analyzed her spending and delivered some hard truths. "Do you realize you're blowing $800 a month on food?" he asked her.

"I was caught up in the downtown lifestyle," she says. Lam invested in cooking classes and now designates Sunday as prep day for the week. She also replaced dog-walking fees with a doggy daycare to save money.

> **"I know it's not trendy, but why not ask your parents — who may be downsizing in the future — to start thinking of what can happen if you get your pre-inheritance now to purchase your future home**
> Cris Lam

Avoid lifestyle inflation. You get a raise and you immediately decide you can afford to go out for dinner three nights a week.

Personal finance blogger Barry Choi (moneywehave.com) developed a goal-oriented budget with his (then) fiancée Carla Salvosa. Initially, they focused on saving for the big day. "After the wedding, that money that was being saved for the wedding was now being saved for home down payment," says Choi.

Supplement your day job. Take on a side business or a part-time job, as Choi did with his blog. Within the first two years of its launch, he generated an extra $5,000 towards a down payment on a condo and continues to earn a regular income.

Fixed rate vs variable: making the decision

Unless you have a crystal ball to confer with, knowing whether it's financially advantageous to choose a variable-rate mortgage over a fixed-rate mortgage can feel like a daunting task.

In fact, according to Andrew Roper, a mortgage broker with Dominion Lending Edge Financial, because the offerings for each product are quite different, deciding which option to take on or renew should always boil down to three main criteria: your income, lifestyle and overall risk tolerance.

While many Canadians tend to favour stable, fixed mortgages — 51 per cent of homeowners opted for a five-year fixed rate in 2015 — a host of economic experts tout the merits of variable mortgages when it comes to offering the biggest long-term advantage, crediting them with being the cheaper option over time.

When deciding up on what type of mortgage is best for you, experts recommend considering three main criteria: lifestyle, income and overall risk tolerance. ISTOCK

"It used to be that short-term variable-rate mortgages were by and far the most popular choice for homeowners, but recent changes in interest rates have made fixed rates more competitive, which makes deciding between the two that much more difficult," Roper says.

And, while so much of the selection process is about personal preference, "the life situations a person or couple are experiencing or will potentially experience — think marriage, having a child, changing jobs, retiring — necessitate securing a mortgage ideally suited to those needs," he adds. "It's a process where the pros and cons associated with each mortgage type should be weighed very carefully."

How can you determine which option is best for you? With variable-rate mortgages, the appeal is that your payments go up or down based on changes to the prime rate, which is currently set at 2.7 per cent by the Bank of Canada. In recent years, interest rates have been lower than that of fixed-rate mortgages, allowing for more of your monthly payment to be applied to the principle of your home. The drawback: Since mortgage payments fluctuate according to the prime rate, this means that a hefty increase in said rate will increase your interest payments, as well.

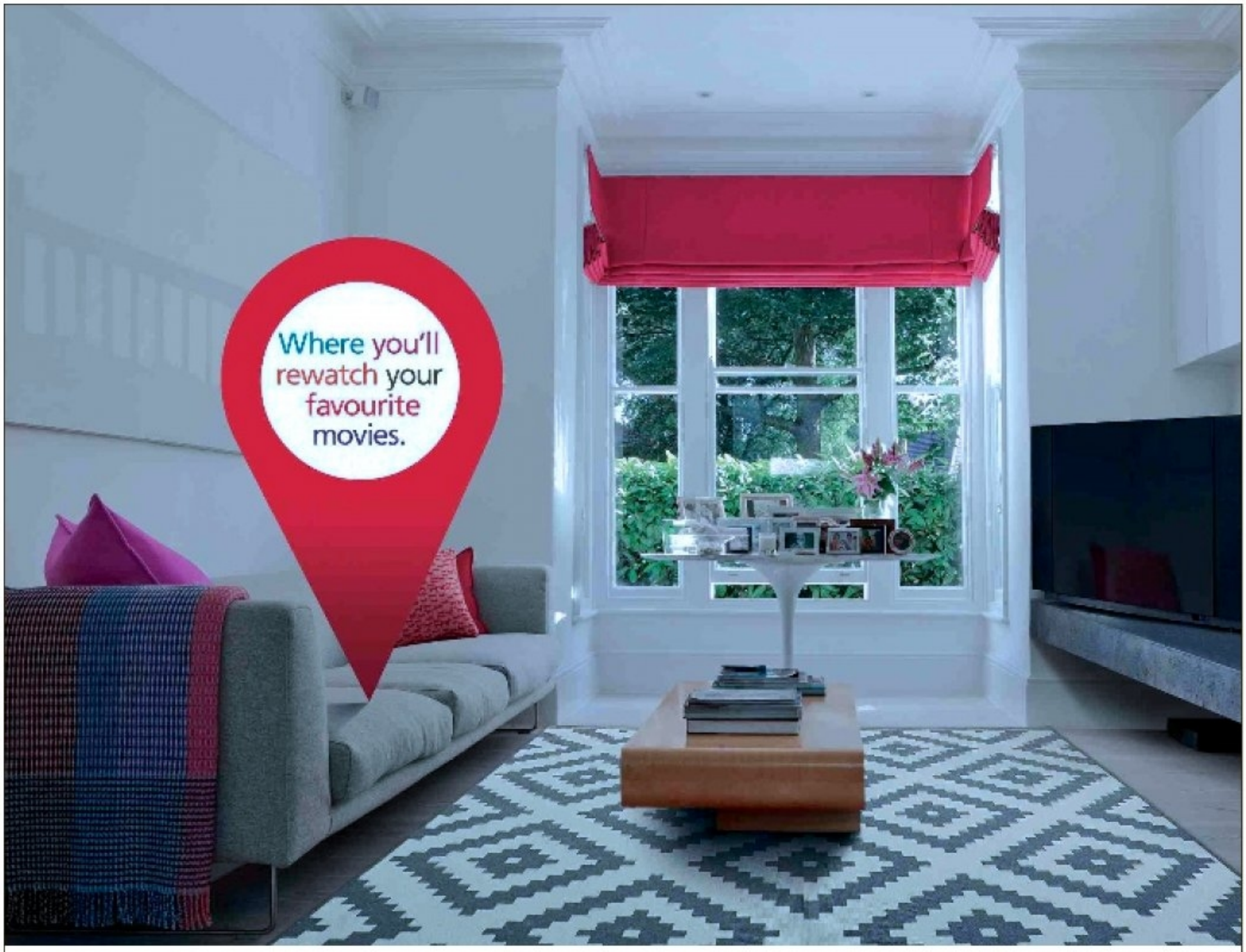
Fixed rates are a different story. Unlike variable rates, these are set for the length of the agreed upon term of your mortgage. Meaning if you have a five-year fixed rate at 2.5 per cent, you'll know exactly how much principal and interest you'll pay on each mortgage payment based on the term chosen. The drawback: Should interest rates drop, you're locked in to paying the higher rate until your fixed term is completed.

What are your mortgage goals? If you haven't already, determine what your long- and short-term goals are, how long you plan to live in your house, and if you're trying to pay off your mortgage quickly, of if having a reliable monthly cash flow is more important to you.

"Talking through these points and then speaking to an expert about them is vital because it puts you in a better position to select which mortgage program is ideal for you," says Roper. "Having this kind of discussion will also open the door to a host of related topics, such as flexible payment options, yearly additional payments to your mortgage and the guidelines that surround them."

LIZ BRUCKNER

THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.



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Pair up to get into the market

INVESTMENT

With soaring home prices, co-owning a property may be a great idea

Camilla Cornell

Before purchasing a home with friends or family, be sure to have a candid talk and write up an agreement outlining the 'what ifs,' such as one party on the mortgage wants out or can't meet the monthly expenses. ISTOCK

Helen Birkett longed to get into the housing market. But as a single woman, working three different gigs, she didn't have the kind of steady, nine to five job that lenders want to see.

Then, one night, about 16 years ago, while out for a drink with a few friends, she was bemoaning the fact that she'd been rejected yet again for a mortgage.

"We should go in together on a property," joked one of her friends. They all laughed, but Birkett couldn't stop thinking about what he'd said.

Finally, she called him. "Let's do this," she said. "Let's go out and look at some properties."

They went out shopping for a house that weekend, found a place they liked and bought it. "Everything was split 50-50," she says. "And we had a legal agreement that spelled that out. I even drew up a will to say what should happen to my portion of the property if I died."

That was the first of two properties that Birkett, now 42, has purchased with the same friend. They sold the first when they received an offer from a high-rise condo builder. They bought the latest just three years ago, paying $550,000 for a house they renovated together. They both had two floors, but Birkett turned one of hers into a basement apartment to help with the mortgage. Now they're looking to sell again — her friend may move to the country and she is considering her options.

Initially, many of Birkett's friends questioned her decision to co-own with a friend. But the shared house is now worth $800,000 and with the proceeds from the sale, Birkett should be able to buy a place of her own. "I don't think I would have ever got into the market if I had waited," she says.

Bill Whyte, senior vice president and chief member experience officer for Meridian Credit Union says Birkett isn't the only one struggling to get a foothold on the property ladder in a housing market characterized by soaring home prices, particularly with the federal government's new stress test. "Even though our five-year fixed mortgage is 2.69 per cent right now, you still have to qualify at 4.69 per cent," says Whyte. "That is making the entry into the housing market difficult for people, even if they've been saving for years."

Hence the advent of new mortgage options allowing friends or family to pool their resources and buy together. In many ways, Meridian's new Family + Friends Mortgage, introduced in February, in time for the spring mortgage season, operates like just about any other mortgage.

"There's still a flexible repayment schedule and you can choose any kind of mortgage you want — variable, two-year or five-year fixed," says Whyte.

The big difference? Up to four people can be on a title. They could be siblings, cousins or simply friends that have known each other for a long time. And parents may sign on too, either so that they get their deposit back if the kids sell, or because they want to set up an upstairs/downstairs arrangement with their adult children.

Similarly, Genworth Canada offers a 'family plan program' that allows people to help buy a home for immediate family members who have good credit but lack the income to meet standard gross debt service ratio (GDSR) and/or total debt service ratio (TDSR) requirements. The exception: it can't be used to buy investment properties that won't be owner-occupied.

In spite of the obvious advantages of teaming up to buy a mortgage, it's not a venture to be undertaken lightly, warns Whyte. "You want to make sure you understand all the nuances," he says. That means having a candid talk about who covers what expenses, and what happens if one party to the mortgage wants out, or someone can't cover their share of the mortgage payment. "Divorces happen all the time," he says. "And that's messy enough. When you've got four people on the mortgage it can be a fair bit messier."

Look at financing a mortgage with your RRSP

Erik Heinrich

Robert, 61, has a large investment portfolio in his registered retirement savings plan (RRSP). He's very knowledgeable in real estate and has been investing part of his retirement savings in mortgages for the last 20 years. Through a mortgage agent he learned that a borrower needed $50,000 to pay his property tax arrears, buy a new truck for his business and do some minor repairs to his home.

The borrower was not able to obtain a bank loan because he had not filed his tax returns in several years and had some fairly serious credit issues. But his house was appraised at $275,000, which meant Robert would be lending him less than 20 per cent of its appraised value.

He offered a one year mortgage at 7.5 per cent and charged a $1,000 lender fee, bringing his total return for the term of the loan to a handsome 9.5 per cent. In the meantime the borrower was able to get his taxes up to date and clean up some of his old credit issues. At the end of the year, he repaid Robert the loan plus interest, and was able to secure a replacement mortgage at a much lower rate from a credit union.

Everyone walked away happy thanks to a little known fact.

"An option for RRSP owners is to invest in a mortgage granted at arm's length to a third party," says James Robinson, a mortgage agent and owner of a Dominion Lending Centres franchise.

First you will need to have enough assets in your RRSP to convert into cash, and you will need a self-directed RRSP that gives you more investment freedom and control. Some RRSP accounts only allow for investing in mutual funds and GICs.

Third party mortgages tend to be higher risk loans to individuals who cannot qualify for financing from traditional channels. Higher risk means much higher rates of interest charged by private lenders.

Rates and fees vary depending on circumstances, including the type of property being secured, the income and credit history of the borrower and the loan-to-value ratio (which is the value of the mortgage compared to the property's appraised value).

Typically, private first mortgages range from 6 to 10 per cent, second mortgages 8 to 14 per cent. For the investor, the benefit is a much higher rate of return compared to more traditional interest bearing investments such as GICs. But this needs to be weighed against the risk of this type of lending.

"Borrowers who cannot qualify for an institutional mortgage due to income or credit challenges are more likely to default on payments, which could result in the investor losing money," says Robinson. "A good mortgage broker will ensure the facts about the borrower, and property being secured, are fully disclosed to allow the investor to make an informed decision."

The other option is to use your RRSP to finance the purchase of your own home or a rental property. But it really only makes sense if your RRSP is invested in fixed income securities like GICs paying a lower rate of interest than a mortgage of a similar length would charge. Under these circumstances you can eliminate the spread, or profit margin a bank makes in lending you a mortgage, by borrowing from yourself and repaying yourself.

James Robinson, a mortgage agent, has only seen half a dozen clients inquire about using an RRSP to finance a mortgage in his almost 30 year career. JON NICHOLLS

Under Canadian law you are required to purchase default insurance to protect your RRSP if you default on your mortgage. Recent changes in mortgage rules now also require that the home being purchased is worth less than $1 million. "In my 29-year career in the mortgage industry, I have only had half a dozen clients even ask about this program, and only a couple that decided to proceed," says Robinson.

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Bidding wars 'demoralizing'

Before baby Charlie arrived, Dan, left, and Jasmine Young were lucky enough to purchase a home in Toronto last December for $60,000 below the asking price. JON NICHOLLS

GETTING OUTBID

In sizzling housing markets, how do you get the home you want?

Camilla Cornell

With their first child on the way, Dan and Jasmine Young needed a more room than their two-bedroom Toronto home could provide. "The baby was due in January and we were kind of thinking that we'd like to be in the house at least a few months before he came to get it ready," says Dan. So they started their home search in the middle of the summer.

The process, he says, was demoralizing. "We probably put in six to eight bids," says Dan. "We were going in with what we thought were decent offers and getting outbid by $125,000. And as much as you tell yourself not to get invested in a home, you start to imagine yourself in that place and that neighbourhood."

In the Greater Toronto Area's sizzling housing market (similar to other markets across the country), where bidding wars are almost de rigeur and house prices often far exceed the asking price, the Youngs' experience is woefully commonplace. But they did find a house eventually, and you can too. Read on for advice on how to get the house you want without breaking the bank.

Look outside the box: The Youngs' real estate agent eventually suggested taking a slightly different approach. "You're bidding against the same people every time," she said. "Everybody is going after the same thing. So let's expand beyond the houses that are just coming up on the market." She suggested looking at estate sales, as well as homes that had been on the market a little longer — perhaps because they needed a little TLC.

The strategy worked. The Youngs made an offer on a detached house with parking and easy subway access that had been languishing on the market for about a month. The problem: it wasn't updated, and the owners had already rejected several offers at or around the asking price. "They were holding out for a higher bid," says Dan. In the meantime, buyers had moved on to newer properties.

"We offered below the asking price, based on comps in the area and the amount we figured we'd have to put in to the house," says Dan. The former owners initially rejected the offer and "we all walked away." But about a week later, the Youngs got a call saying if they came up a little on the price, the sellers would take it for $60,000 below asking. They jumped in with both feet and took possession last December.

Make a bully bid: More formally known as a pre-emptive offer, this involves submitting a bid on a home before the designated and planned offer day. "Buyers do it because they want that house and they want to have less competition," says Real Estate Homeward agent Collette Skelly. "And sometimes it's because they're going away for a holiday to Florida and they want to put in an offer before they go."

Even in today's hot housing market, sellers sometimes accept, "mainly to avoid the inconvenience of having open houses," says Skelly. "It means they don't have to keep the house tidy and take the dogs to the kennel and the kids won't have to go to grandma's house."

Keep it clean: Conditional sales just don't cut it when there are plenty of offers on the table. "We knew from selling our other house that when we looked through bids, even if they were the best offer, if they were conditional on inspections they were put to the side," says Young.

Ditto for offers that are contingent on financing. "Homebuyers definitely need to get qualified and know how much they can pay up front," says Skelly. If you are 'pre-approved' for a mortgage, the lender has made an actual commitment (subject to conditions such as a property valuation) to loan you money.

And if possible, adds Skelly, accept the seller's preferred closing date and don't quibble over buyers taking light fixtures or appliances when they go. "You don't want to be arguing over things like that," she says.

Push your budget: "Our budget changed from the beginning," admits Young. "We had to take a second look at our finances and what we could afford, especially considering the equity in our other place. We pushed our budget as much as we could." Many buyers are in the same boat, says Skelly, "with the way prices are rising every time you wait, it's another $30,000 to $100,000 for a house."

> **We were going in with what we thought were decent offers and getting outbid by $125,000**
> Dan Young

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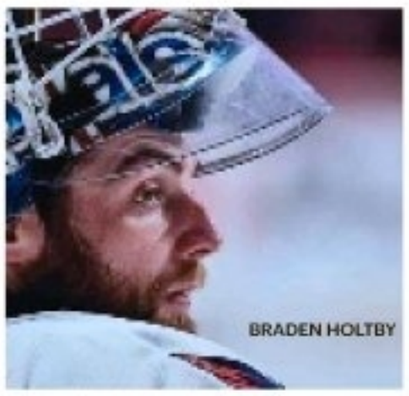
metro SPORTS

"It's not 100 per cent, but I definitely would like to": Jarome Iginla, 39, is not quite ready to call it a career

5 key matchups how they stack up


BRADEN HOLTBY

1 GOALIES

Caps: Braden Holtby and Philipp Grubauer combined for the best goals-against average in the league. Holtby's a bona fide superstar.
Leafs: Frederik Andersen was just about as good as promised but his health is in question. If he can't play, Curtis McElhinney will have to stand on his head for the Leafs to have a chance. **Edge:** Caps

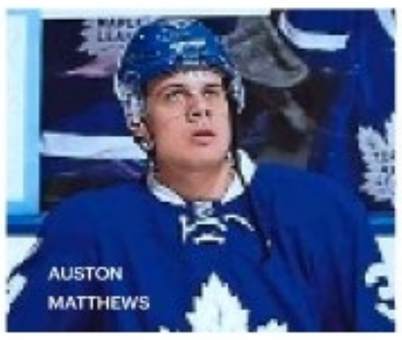
JOHN CARLSON

2 DEFENCE

Capitals: They're deep with playoff experience. John Carlson is nursing a lower-body injury, but should be ready to play.
Leafs: They score but are not nearly as deep and remain untested in the playoffs. There is little by way of trustworthy depth if Nikita Zaitsev is out long-term. **Edge:** Caps

3 FORWARDS

Caps: The Caps have Hart Trophy-worthy veteran presences up front and play a hard-hitting game.
Leafs: The Leafs have three lines that can score. If the Leafs' rookies get over playoff nerves and play their tenacious game, they can keep pace. **Edge:** Tie


AUSTON MATTHEWS

4 COACHING

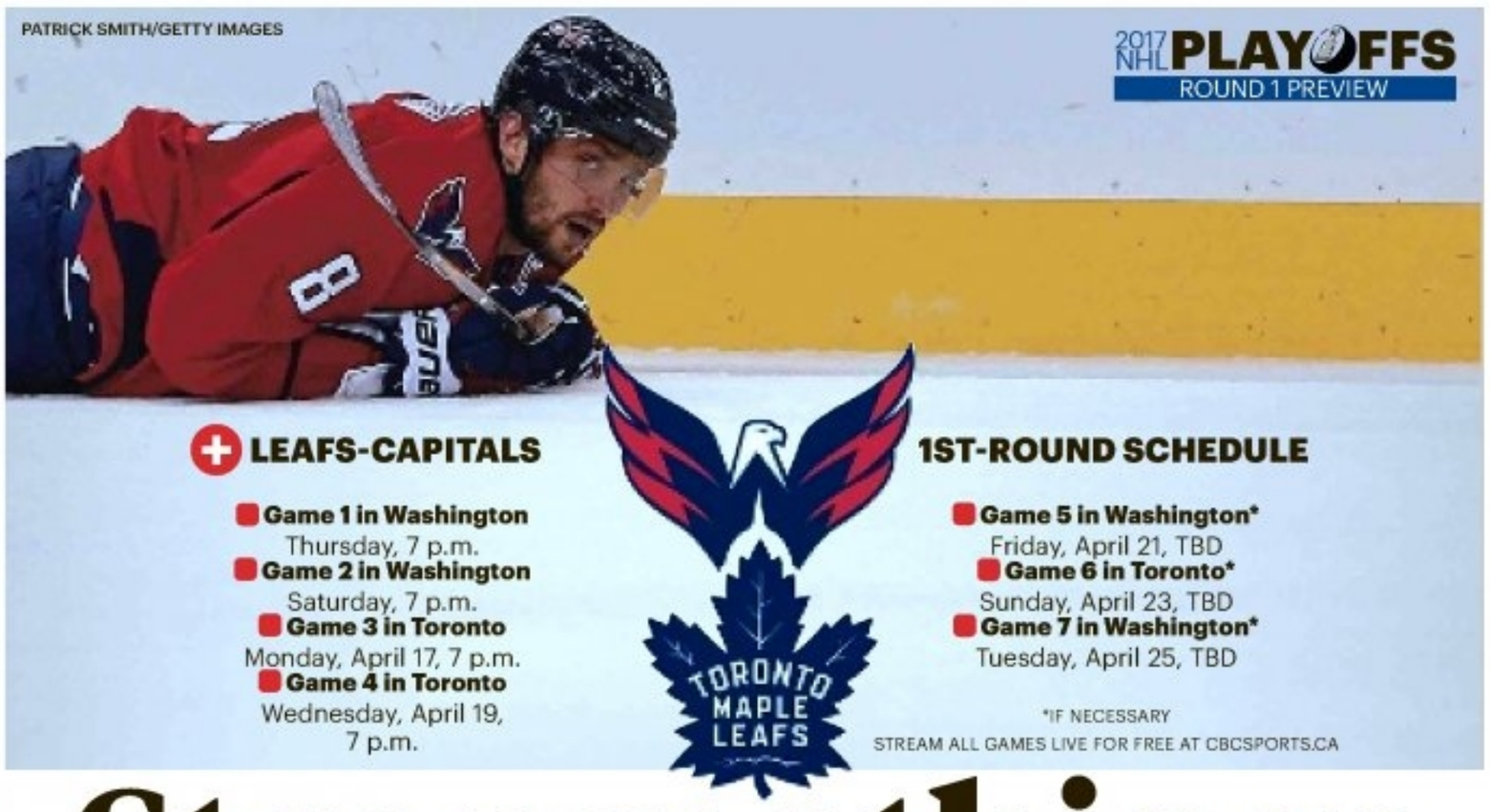
Caps: Barry Trotz, left, is as good as there is tactically and motivationally. He's coached 17 years in the NHL, his teams have been in the playoffs in nine of the past 12 seasons, but have never made it past Round 2.
Leafs: Mike Babcock, right, is the highest-paid coach for a reason. His list of accomplishments is impressive: One Stanley Cup, two Olympics golds, world championship gold, World Cup of Hockey gold and world junior gold. **Edge:** Leafs

5 SPECIAL TEAMS

Caps: The fourth-best in power play (23.1 per cent); seventh penalty kill (83.8 per cent); 15th in faceoffs (49.8 per cent); fourth in possession (51.81 per cent).
Leafs: Second-best PP (23.8 per cent); 10th in PK (82.5 per cent); 14th in FOs (49.9 per cent); 12th in possession (50.43 per cent). **Edge:** Tie

KEVIN MCGRAN/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE/ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

PREDICTION Capitals in six



Stranger things happen in D.C.

LEAFS-CAPITALS
Dave Feschuk

I'm picking the Maple Leafs to win their first-round playoff series against the Washington Capitals for a lot of reasons — for one, possibly because I'm a desperate and nearly penniless sports bettor who also had Jordan Spieth in the green jacket, Duke in the Final Four and Hillary in the White House.

Favourites? Right now the Leafs are not my favourite.

So I'm picking the Leafs, not because I know they're going to win, but because I know this: The idea that the Capitals are prohibitive, can't-lose overdogs — the idea that they ought to be considered a Cup-or-bust outfit that will hoist Lord Stanley's mug or be deemed a failure — ignores much of what we've learned in recent history.

Yes, the Capitals are the league's best by regular-season record, winning the Presidents' Trophy for the third time in the Alex Ovechkin era. But we should know by now that the Presidents' Trophy is to playoff success what the president's Twitter account is to cool-headed statesmanship — not often synonymous.

Eleven teams have won the Presidents' Trophy since the lockout that killed the 2004-05 season. Only two of those 11 have won the Stanley Cup. That's an 18 per cent conversion rate when it comes to turning the league's best record over 82 games into a championship in the salary-cap era. That's not so great.

Less great? Four times in the past 11 seasons, the team with the NHL's best regular-season point total has been eliminated in the first round. That means the underdogs are batting .363 when it comes to launching the so-called Stanley Cup favourites into oblivion.

"It really is hard to explain," said Leafs veteran Brian Boyle, speaking of the NHL's penchant for first-round Goliath-smashing. "Sometimes the eighth seed really isn't the eighth seed. Maybe they had some injuries or made some trades. Teams change. Teams grow. Young teams get better."

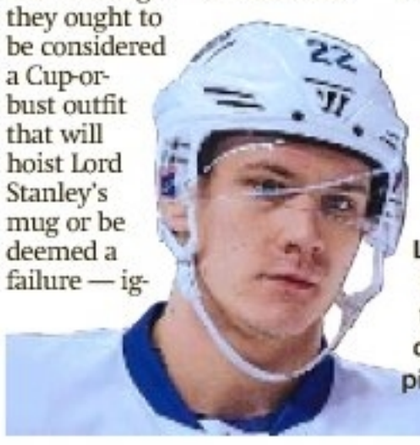
None of that proves anything, of course. But it does strongly suggest the young-and-getting-better Maple Leafs aren't as massive a long shot as some would have you believe. Have the Capitals been a more formidable team than the Maple Leafs over the past six months? Well, yeah. Their record says so. But what's that worth? That's the question nobody can answer. The nature of hockey just doesn't really allow it to be answered.

One game. Game 1. And imagine what happens if the Maple Leafs find a way to win.

Washington's hockey audience gets apoplectic. Suddenly all of D.C.'s doubters will be in here-we-go-again mode, because the Ovechkin Capitals, for all their promise, have either lost in the first round or missed the playoffs in an amazing six of Ovechkin's 11 previous seasons with the club. Lose another and the Twitterer-in-Chief might be giving his D.C. neighbours the Meryl Streep treatment. Overrated. Losers. Sad.

"Once you're in the playoffs, all it takes is one game," Connor Carrick said. "You win one game, and now you see a crack. And you understand, 'OK, if I can just carbon-copy that three more times ...'"

That's not to say anybody actually knows what's going to happen, other than some random happening you probably can't foresee. When nothing's certain, everything's foreseeable — even the Maple Leafs moving on to the second round. Don't bet on it for anything other than recreational purposes, of course. But don't dismiss it as impossibility, either.



"There's a chance for someone to step up here.
Leafs coach Mike Babcock. Martin Marinicin will be in the lineup for Game 1 with defenceman Nikita Zaitsev, pictured, out for Game 1 with an upper-body injury.

Dave Feschuk is a sports columnist with the Toronto Star

MLB

Hobbling Donaldson slotted in as Jays DH

Josh Donaldson returned to the Blue Jays lineup Wednesday as designated hitter.

The star third baseman was restricted to pinch-hitting duty Tuesday in a 4-3 loss to Milwaukee due to calf tightness.

Donaldson was pulled from Sunday's game in Tampa due to the calf problem.

Kendrys Morales, who DH'd Tuesday, shifted to first base for Wednesday's game against the Brewers and moved one spot down in the batting lineup to cleanup. Donaldson, who normally bats second, was inserted at No. 3, behind leadoff hitter Devon Travis and Jose Bautista.

Darwin Barney replaced Ryan Goins at third base. Steve Pearce remained in left field.

"We want to get him going," manager John Gibbons said of Pearce. "We brought him over here to hit so we want to make sure we string some games together to let him get going."

The Jays set a franchise record-low for a season start at 1-6. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Giannis Antetokounmpo of the Bucks dunks the ball against Raptors power forward Serge Ibaka on March 4 in Milwaukee.
TOM LYNN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raps ready for physical Bucks

NBA PLAYOFFS

Casey vows his team's young foes won't blindside them

The Milwaukee Bucks are going to bump and grab DeMar DeRozan and try to push him around when the NBA playoffs begin on the weekend, attempting to take the most prolific Toronto Raptors scorer out of his comfort zone.

But DeRozan's been going through it all year, coach Dwane Casey said, and that familiarity should help.

"We don't get overly excited about it but the main thing they do is they play very physical," Casey said Wednesday morning about Toronto's first-round playoff opponent. "They grab and hold him, don't let him go where he wants to go. (It's) nothing different than you are going to see in any playoff game."

The key for the Raptors will be not only matching the physical way the Bucks play but surpassing it. Milwaukee may not have nearly the same record as the Raptors do and they may be the sixth Eastern Conference seed to Toronto's third but Casey's message is to throw the past performance charts away.

"If we don't go into this series with a sense of urgency knowing how hard this team plays, and think it's a wrap just because we show up, it's not going to happen," Casey said.

"I'm not going to get blindsided by seeing Milwaukee. They are a good young team. I have seen what they have done against good teams in this league and what they are capable of doing."

Milwaukee is led by Giannis Antetokounmpo, the seven-footer known affectionately as the Greek Freak because of his unique skill set. The 22-year-old gobbles up space on the floor by the sheer length of his stride and has become something of a point centre who directs the offence from anywhere on the floor.

"He reminds me so much of a young Magic Johnson as far as his length, his size, the way he can pass the ball," Casey said. "And Lord forbid he gets consistent on his jump shots. He's totally different than anything else in our league.

"He also plays with so much force. He's one young kid that has been taught the right way as far as how hard you have to play every possession. He has got that down."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

0-3

The Raptors dropped the opener in all three series they played last season.

BLUE JAYS

Gibbons predicts 'a monster year' from newest slugger

John Gibbons hasn't had much to feel good about seven games into the Blue Jays' 2017 season.

He feels good about how Kendrys Morales is fitting in with his ball club, though.

After dropping to 1-6 on the year with a 4-3 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers in Toronto's home opener Tuesday night, the Blue Jays manager applauded Morales for a 3-for-4 night at the plate.

He expects more nights like that in the future.

"I think he's going to have a monster year for us, I really do," Gibbons said. "You look back at the beginning of the season, shoot he was barrelling just about everything. He had a lot of tough luck. He can have a lot more (hits) than he's got right now.

Kendrys Morales
GETTY IMAGES

"I think he's a big addition for us."

Morales, who also scored a run and reached base on a fielding error, raised his batting average from .208 to .286 with Tuesday's performance.

He has one home run and six runs batted in, second only on the team to shortstop Troy Tulowitzki, who had three Tuesday night to bring his total to nine.

Morales, a 34-year-old switch-hitter who spent the last two seasons with the Kansas City Royals, was brought over to Toronto in the off-season to replace the power the Blue Jays were losing with the free-agent departure of Edwin Encarnacion.

"I always admired the guy when he was on the other team," Gibbons said of Morales. "You could tell he's a good hitter, not just a slugger, a good hitter. When you watch him every day you like him even more.

"He's probably one of the most happy guys you'll come across. Every day he's one of the first guys here and he's got a smile on his face. He really appreciates what he has and what he's doing and I guarantee that's a big part of his success."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Wednesday's Jays-Brewers game

MLB LEAKE TAKES IT TO THE MAX Cardinals starting pitcher Mike Leake makes an offering against the Nationals in Washington on Wednesday. Leake outpitched 2016 NL Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer, Stephen Piscotty homered and had five RBIs, and the Cardinals won 6-1 to avoid a three-game sweep. Leake (1-1) gave up four hits, struck out seven and walked none over seven shutout innings. MANUEL BALCE CENETA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Manfred makes push to eradicate Chief Wahoo logo

Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred has made his strongest comments on wanting the Cleveland Indians to eradicate their Chief Wahoo logo.

Manfred has been in talks with Indians owner Paul Dolan about abolishing the divisive symbol, which has sparked debate for decades. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Orridge stepping down as CFL commissioner

Jeffrey Orridge's tenure as CFL commissioner was a short but tumultuous one.

The league dropped a bombshell Wednesday by announcing Orridge — hired just over two years ago — and the CFL's board of governors mutually agreed to part ways effective June 30.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hitchcock heading back behind Stars' bench

Ken Hitchcock is returning to Dallas and will be named the Stars' coach at a news conference Thursday.

A person with direct knowledge of the situation confirmed the hire of the 65-year-old, who won the Cup with Dallas in 1999, coaching there for parts of seven seasons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

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3	8	2	6	1	5	4	7	9
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Bus bomb suspect arrested

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Islamic radical in custody, Dortmund lose 1st leg to Monaco

Dortmund fans chanted Marc Bartra's name during the game. The defender was injured after bombs exploded near the Dortmund team bus Tuesday. DEAN MOUHTAROPOULOS/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

German authorities arrested a suspected Islamic extremist Wednesday in their investigation into a bomb attack on a top German soccer team, while the team — missing a defender wounded in the blasts — lost 3-2 to Monaco in a hastily rescheduled Champions League match.

Amid heightened security, the defeat for Borussia Dortmund in Europe's top club competition came less than 24 hours after three explosions shattered a window of the team's bus and rattled nerves across the gritty city in western Germany.

Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel said after the loss that he felt European soccer's governing body, UEFA, had not taken the attack seriously enough as it swiftly rescheduled the match.

"We weren't asked at all at any time," Tuchel said. "Basically, we had the feeling that we were being treated as if a beer can had hit our bus, and half an hour later the decision was there that (it would be) tomorrow at 6.45 p.m.. That gives you a feeling of powerlessness."

Armed police officers in body armour patrolled the streets around Dortmund's stadium Wednesday night as locals and visiting fans mingled in a subdued atmosphere.

Supporters were banned from bringing backpacks to the match and some were frisked — with security officials even checking under their hats. During the match, small knots of armed police guarded access to the stands.

Earlier in the day, Frauke Koehler, a spokeswoman for German federal prosecutors, said investigators are focusing on two suspected Islamic extremists in the bus attack and searched their homes, arresting one of them. But authorities said other motives are possible. Investigators are still trying to determine how the metal-packed devices were detonated and what explosive substance was used. As the investigation continued, the match delayed by the blasts got underway.

Dortmund was without Spanish central defender Marc Bartra, who underwent surgery for injuries to his wrist and arm after the three devices packed with metal pins detonated close to the team bus Tuesday night. Before kickoff, his teammates honoured Bartra by wearing yellow T-shirts bearing his image and the message in Spanish: "A lot of strength — we are with you."

> **"Basically, we had the feeling that we were being treated as if a beer can had hit our bus.**
> Dortmund boss Thomas Tuchel

Clearly missing Bartra in defence and possibly still shocked by the attack on their bus, Dortmund conceded two goals in the first 35 minutes.

The team fought back after the break, to make it 2-1 in the 57th minute before Kylian Mbappe scored his second in the 79th minute for Monaco. Shinji Kagawa cut the deficit in the 84th minute, but it was not enough to save Dortmund from defeat.

"It was difficult for the team to focus on the game. We let the players decide if they wanted to play. But training did us good," Dortmund coach Tuchel said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESULTS

A. Madrid 1, Leicester 0

Antoine Griezmann converted a first-half penalty kick to give Atletico Madrid a 1-0 win over Leicester in their first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals on Wednesday, keeping the Spanish club on track to make it to the final for a second straight season.

Griezmann coolly scored from the spot in the 28th minute after he was clipped by Leicester's Marc Albrighton.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

B. Munich 1, R. Madrid 2

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice for Real Madrid to beat Bayern Munich 2-1 in the first leg of their Champions League quarterfinal on Wednesday, ending the German side's tournament record of 16 straight wins at home.

Ronaldo's second-half goals ensured Madrid came from behind — after Arturo Vidal's 25th-minute header — to put the defending champions on course to reach the semifinals for a seventh successive year.

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MAKE IT TONIGHT

Tex-Mex Grilled Chicken with Corn and Black Bean Salad

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

The freshness of lime marinade coupled with the fibre-rich salad make this a healthy, satisfying dinner.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 10
Cook time: 20
Serves: 2 - 3

Ingredients
- 2 chicken breasts
- 2 cups (475 ml) fresh or frozen and thawed corn kernels
1/2 cup finely chopped red onion
- 2 cups (475 ml) no-salt-added cooked black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 red bell pepper, cored, seeded and diced
- 1/3 cup (80 ml) cilantro leaves, finely chopped

Marinade
- ¼ cup (60 ml) olive oil
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) fresh lime juice
- 1 Tbsp (15 ml) honey
- pinch salt and pepper

Dressing
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 tsp (5 ml) honey
- Pinch salt and pepper

Directions
1. Preheat grill. In small bowl, whisk together your marinade ingredients.
2. Use about 2/3 of it to coat chicken on a plate.
3. Rinse onions in cold water, drain and place in a large bowl along with the black beans, red pepper and cilantro. Whisk together the dressing ingredients and pour over black bean mixture. Stir in the corn.
4. Grill chicken 10 minutes over medium/high heat. Turn over and grill for another 10 minutes.
5. Serve chicken with corn and black bean mixture. Top with cilantro and a squeeze of lime.

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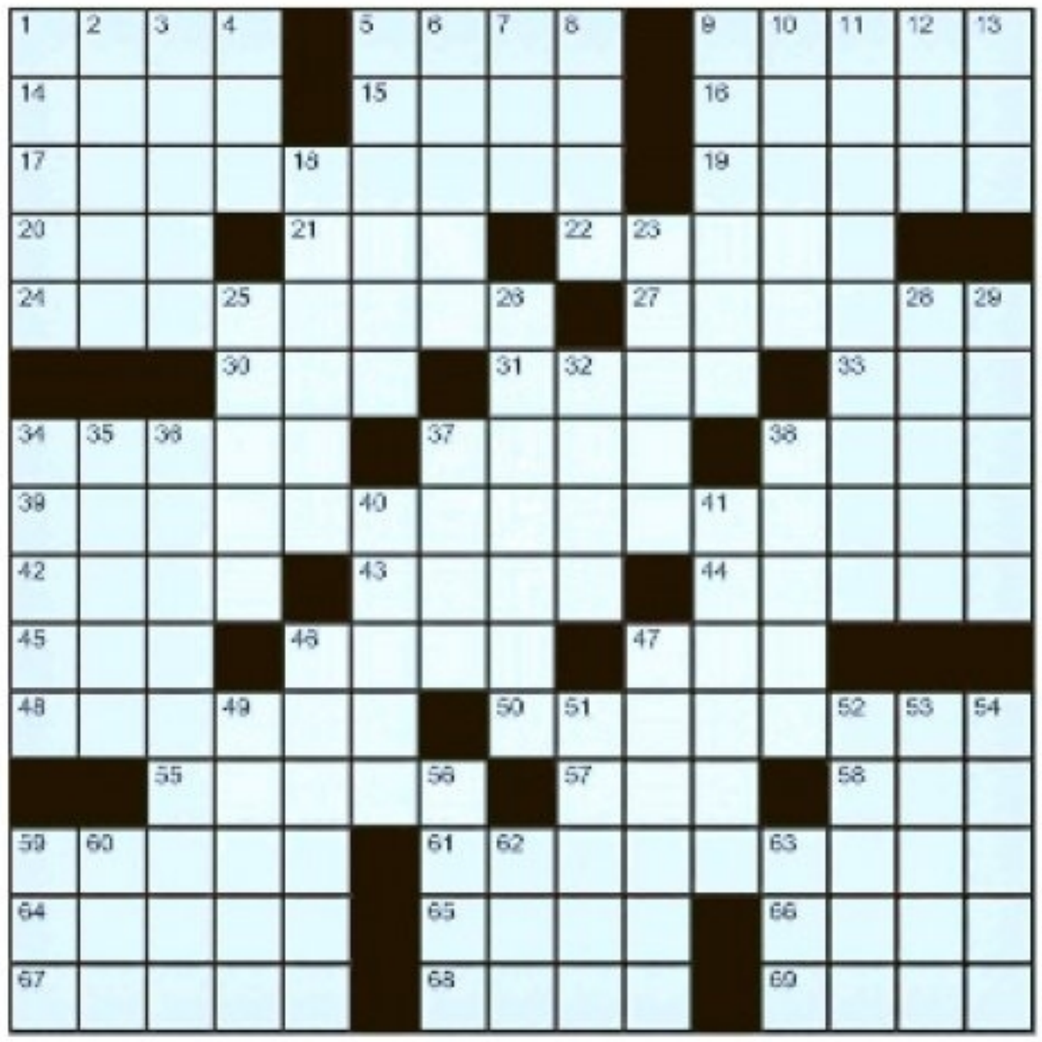
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. She-chickens
5. Wonky
9. Montreal 'morning'
14. Farm song bit: "Here __, there..."
15. "Begone!"
16. "Bust __" by Young MC
17. Inspirational, like feel good movies
19. Recorded
20. Full amt.
21. Allow
22. Bitter
24. Derelict buildings, perhaps
27. The Kennedy Center __ (Performing arts achievement awards)
30. Play on words
31. Genghis __ (Mongol emperor)
33. Rap music's Kim
34. Titanic passenger, John Jacob __ IV (b.1864 - d.1912)
37. Dining room table lengthener
38. Other
39. Saskatchewan village: 2 wds.
42. Fossil fuel form
43. Red __ (Spicy cinnamon candies)
44. American author, Fannie __ (b.1885 - d.1968)
45. Legendary bird
46. Quasi
47. Director Mr. Pollack, to pals
48. Famously low-in-carbs diet
50. Contributes one's point of view: 2 wds.
55. Daggers
57. Apricot-like fruit
58. Alphabetic trio
59. Entertain, as a comedian
61. Premium knitting supply
64. "Finding Vivian __" (2013)
65. "Heat of the Moment" band
66. Horse speed
67. Paul who famously sang "Nessun Dorma"
68. Mr. Danson's
69. Parched

DOWN
1. High, in Hull
2. Drained of liquid
3. __ prosequi (Not proceeding, in law)
4. "__ heard..."
5. 'Backward' at sea
6. Canadian flag hues, red and __
7. Mr. Howard
8. __ mat
9. __-of-honour
10. Mightily, archaically
11. Highest money amount: 2 wds.
12. "__ had it!" (Enough!)
13. Mr. Beatty
18. Cake shop supplies
23. Fray
25. Go bad, as milk
26. Variant-spelled doubter
28. Hazards
29. Rain/snow mix
32. Triumphant laughs!
34. Capital of Ghana
35. "Darn it!"
36. Athleisure attire
37. Weaving machine
38. Dodge
40. Guess Who's "__ Eyes"
41. Poetry features
46. Scoundrel's 'smiles'
47. "The Lion King 2: __ Pride" (1998)
49. Map detail
51. Muggy
52. Gooey campfire treat
53. The Koh-__ Diamond
54. "Cape Fear" (1991) star Nick
56. Blinds strip
59. Guitarist's blaster
60. Psychedelic rocker's jacket
62. Peer Gynt's mother
63. Kilograms and pounds, for short

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
You will be impulsive and spontaneous today, because you have a strong desire to do your own thing. Feelings of freedom make you want to set your own boundaries and determine your own course.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This could be a restless day for you because you will rebel against anything that restricts you. You do not want to be confined or held back by rules. (Yes, you feel rebellious.)

Gemini May 22 - June 21
A friend might surprise you today by doing something quite outrageous. Or perhaps you will meet someone new who is outrageous. Either way, it's fascinating.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You do not want people telling you what to do today, especially bosses, parents and teachers. You want to call the shots.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You have your own ideas about religion and politics and do not want others to try to dissuade you. You also might impulsively travel somewhere today.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Discussions about inheritances and shared property might suddenly change today. You might want things to be different, or perhaps somebody else does. Be alert to whatever happens, because it might surprise you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Friends and partners are unpredictable today. They will either surprise you or respond to you in a surprising way.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You want the freedom to do your own thing at work today. You also might want to introduce reforms and better ways of doing things. Why not?

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Dealing with children might be challenging today, because they want control over their actions. Likewise, romantic relationships will be full of surprises.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It's hard to predict how a discussion with a parent or an authority figure at home will go today. You don't want anyone telling you what to do. You also want to break free of routine. (This will be interesting.)

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You're full of bright and clever ideas because you can think outside the box. For sure, your daily routine will change. Stay flexible.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Watch your money today, because things are unpredictable. You might find money, or you might lose money. Keep your eyes open.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

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